Bronze no Tenshi
Volume 4 Chapter 13

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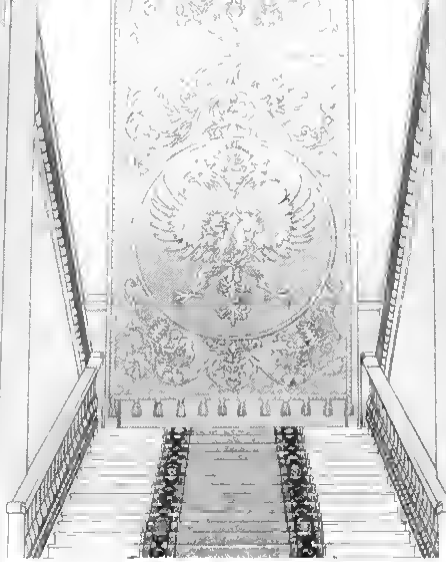
Bronze no Tenshi 4

Chiho Saito



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Vol. 13 Dancing in the Court

青銅の天使

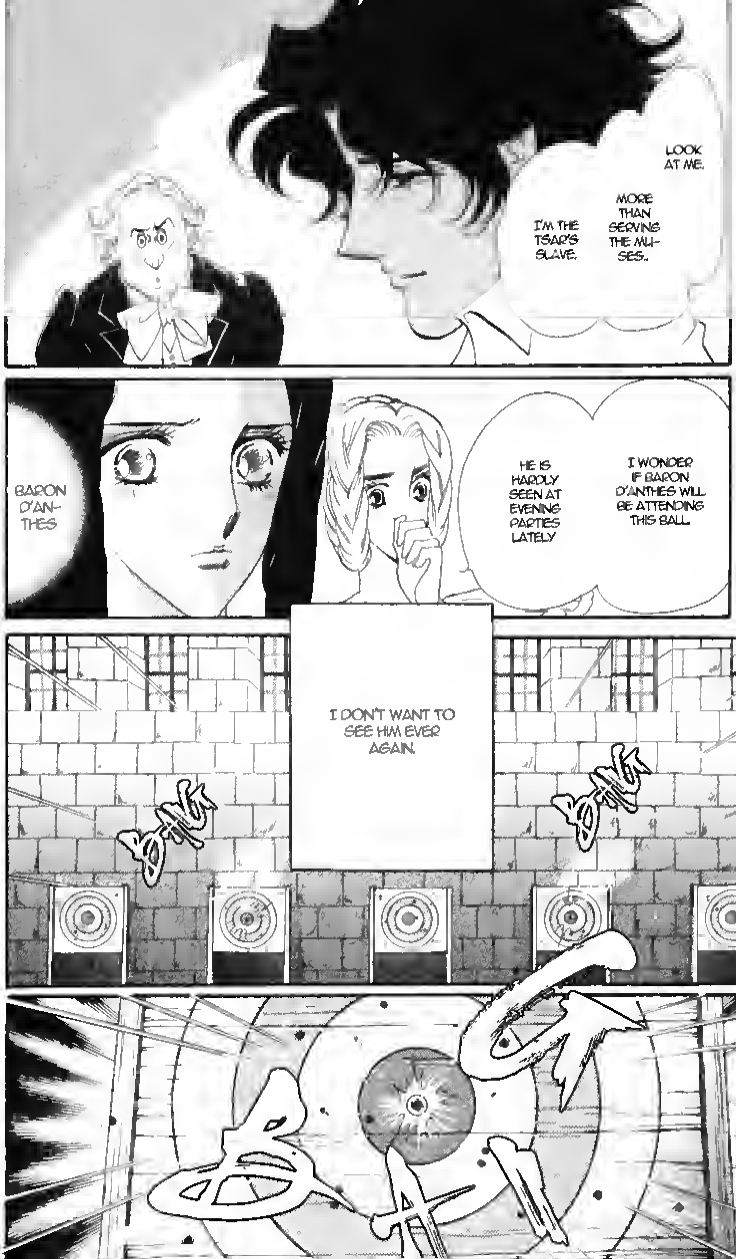
Pushkin's house, August of 1835
IT'S ALREADY 8 O'CLOCK IT'S TIME TO GO TO SLEEP
BUT I DON'T WANT TO SLEEP
IT'S NOT DARK YET
Meow
MASHIKA
SASHIKA
DON'T!
DURING WHITE NIGHTS THERE IS SUNLIGHT AT NIGHT BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT IT'S NIGHT TIME
MASHI-KA!!
WHERE IS PA-PA?
Dash

MASHIKA...
Smile
PAPA!
THERE WAS A MAN THAT LOOKED LIKE A BIRD
MR GOGOL IS A WRITER
PAPA IS BUSY NOW
DON'T DISTURB THE GUESTS
Ow
turns
WHAT A SMART LITTLE GIRL.
AND YOUR WIFE SEEMS TO HAVE A FIRM CHARACTER
SHE GAINED SOME WEIGHT DIDN'T SHE?
THAT'S MY WIFE'S SISTER

I'M BACK.
I... I SEE!!
YOUR WIFE HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING THE GREATEST BEAUTY OF THE COURT.
EVEN I THOUGHT IT WAS A BIT STRANGE...
WELCOME.
SHE HAS LOST SOME WEIGHT, HASN'T SHE?
BUT ISN'T IT A BIT TOO MUCH..?
THAT'S ALSO MY WIFE'S SISTER.
LET'S TALK ABOUT LITERATURE
OUR FIELD OF EXPERTISE
I DEEPLY RESPECT YOU, MY MENTOR!!
YOU ARE MY GOD!! YOU ARE A GIANT OF LITERATURE!! THE GUIDE OF GREATNESS!!
THIS TIME, COULD YOU SUGGEST SOME IDEAS FOR MY LITERARY SKETCH?
THE THEME THAT YOU SUGGESTED BEFORE WAS TOO EPIC.
THAT'S WHY, TODAY
He starts a lot.
I'M RELYING ON YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING LITERARY WORKS!!
IF I COULD WRITE MYSELF A WORK AS INTENSE, BEAUTIFUL, NOBLE AND HARMONIOUS AS YOURS
IF YOU READ THIS, COULD YOU GIVE ME YOUR OPINION?

I'M SURE YOU WOULD BE GOOD AT IT
YOU.. SHOULD WRITE A COMEDY
MM... DID I HURT YOUR FEELINGS?
HA HA HA
I HAVE SOME NEAT IDEAS FOR A WORK
WHAT ABOUT THIS?
A STORY ABOUT A MERE TRAVELLER WHO IS MISTAKEN FOR A PUBLIC PROSECUTOR AND CHEATS A WHOLE TOWN
No! No!
I'M SURE A DAY WILL COME WHEN RUSSIAN LITERATURE WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF PEOPLE WITH A STRONG PERSONALITY LIKE YOU
YOU ARE YOUR BEST AT PROSE
GOOD LUCK!
SASHA
THERE IS A LETTER FROM BENKENDORF.
I'm so happy... I will try my best.

...
THE LOAN OF 30 000 ROUBLES FROM THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND THE 4 MONTHS FURLOUGH WERE APPROVED
WHAT IS IT?
IS IT BAD NEWS?
KATYUSHA
Is there your uncle, this time?
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME
THE DEMAND OF APOLOGY WAS ACCEPTED BUT THIS IS NOT FOR FREE
NATALIA! CAN I GO TO THE NEXT BALL?
IT WILL BE THE FIRST ONE SINCE GRIGORY WAS BORN.
THE TSAR REQUESTS TO SEE NATALIA NIKOLAEVNA IN THE NEXT COURT BALL.
I GUESS I CAN'T DECLINE IT
IT S AN ORDER FROM BENKENDORF. HE SAYS TAKING YOU WITH ME WILL BE A EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TOWARDS THE TSAR


LOOK AT ME.
MORE THAN SERVING THE MUSES.
I'M THE TSAR'S SLAVE.
I WONDER IF BARON D'ANTHES WILL BE ATTENDING THIS BALL.
HE IS HARDLY SEEN AT EVENING PARTIES LATELY
BARON D'ANTHES
I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM EVER AGAIN.
BANG
BANG

*THE TROT IS A TWO-BEAT GAIT. HORSE GAITS ARE THE DIFFERENT WAYS

SECOND LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES
IS SERIOUSLY BECOMING A ZEALOUS MILITANT... EVEN WE ARE SURPRISED
I, THE SUPERIOR OFFICER, CAN GUARANTEE IT.
SINCE THE BEGINNING HE HAS BEEN A MAN OF EXCELLENCE HE IS PROGRESSING FAST
AS HIS GUARDIAN YOU MUST BE SATISFIED,
DUTCH AMBASSADOR MR HEECKEREN
LET'S CALL HIM NOW
CLOP
BARON,
I WISH THAT YOU ATTEND THE COURT BALL TONIGHT WITHOUT FAIL.
WILL YOU DO IT?

YES
CLOP

NATALIA NIKOLA-EVNA,
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE
I THINK HE IS HAPPY BECAUSE THE COURT'S REALITY HAS RETURNED AGAIN.
I'M GRA-TEFUL.
WHAT IS THE GENDER OF YOUR THIRD CHILD? IS IT A BOY OR A GIRL?
IT'S A BOY, YOUR MAJES-TY
I'M SURE IT'S A BEAUTIFUL CHILD
MY 7TH CHILD IS A THREE YEAR OLD BOY TOO
SOMEDAY, I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW HIM TO YOU
On tenter-hooks
I'M VERY GRATEFUL, YOUR MA-JESTY
IT'S AN HONOUR
...

laughs
YOUR MAJESTY
IT'S AN HONOUR I DON'T DESERVE
MRS. PUSHKIN HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
SHE IS NOT PROGRESSING,
ON THE CONTRARY, SHE IS REALLY BAD NOW.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
USELESSNESS SEEMS TO BE A HABIT OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN
I HEARD THE COUNT WHO CALLS HIMSELF "THE JUDGE OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN" SAY IT.
IT'S A CHARACTERISTIC OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE.
THE FEELING OF BEING SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO CANNOT STOP ADMIRING YOU SEEMS TO BE UNBEARABLY GOOD.
REALLY?
WE HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS AGAIN.

IT SHOULD BE SKILL MORE THAN THE LACK OF IT
THE ENERGY TO KEEP MAKING PROGRESSES IS SOMETHING THAT FASCINATES ME
THOSE ARE AN OLD PERSON'S PREFERENCES
YOU AREN'T AN OLD PERSON YET
BUT I'M TWICE YOUR AGE
THAT'S ENOUGH TO BE YOUR "FATHER", RIGHT?
I'M GOING TO ADOPT YOU

"ADOPT ME"
OF COURSE WE HAVE DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES
THE HEECKEREN FAMILY COMES FROM HOLLAND BUT IT'S THE OLDEST NOBLE FAMILY
THE PROCESS IS DIFFICULT BUT WITH MONEY AND POWER IT CAN BE CARRIED THROUGH
WE WILL ASK YOUR FATHER
YOUR BODY IS STRONG FROM YOUR TRAINING IN THE ARMY AND YOU HAVE AN ANIMAL PERCEPTION
I THINK THAT YOU ALSO HAVE A POLITICAL SENSE TO WEATHER THE STORM OF NEGOTIATIONS
BUT...
IF YOU LEARN THE ESSENTIAL POINTS OF POLITICS AND PERSEVERANCE BY BEING BY MY SIDE...
YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SUCCEED IN POLITICAL OR MILITARY AFFAIRS
IF YOU
ARE INTERESTED IN AN APPROPRIATE MARRIAGE FOR YOU AND THE HEECKEREN FAMILY...
IT WILL BE PERFECT
HEECKEREN!

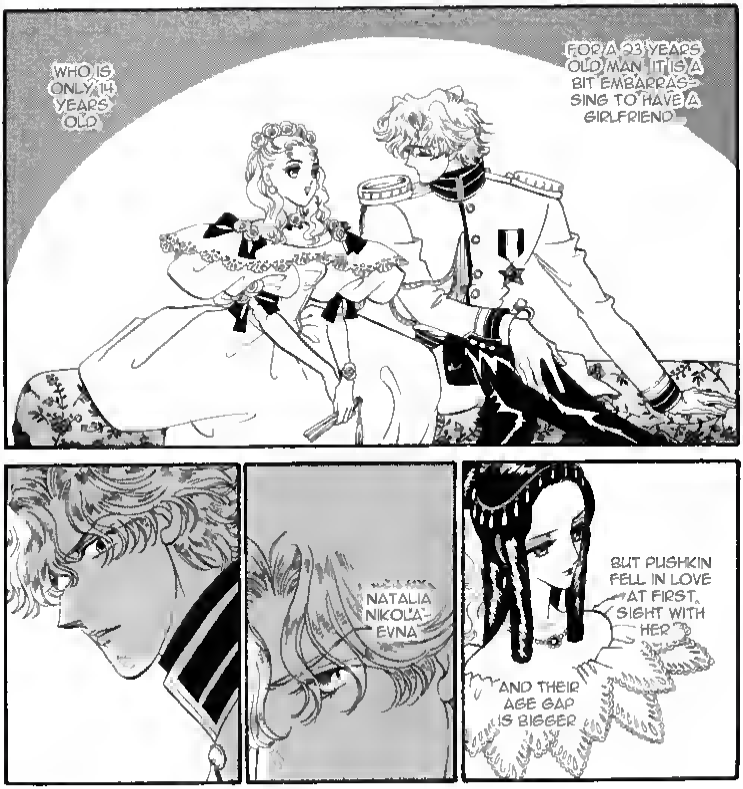
MINISTER NESSELRODE
HE HE HE
YOU BROUGHT SOMEONE ELSE ALONG!
OH, IT'S SECOND LIEUTENANT GEORGES D'ANTHES
Daddy
I WANT TO INTRODUCE MY YOUNGEST DAUGHTER TO YOU
Nice to meet you
SHE IS VICTORIA
EVER SINCE SHE SAW YOU AT THE HORSE-RIDING ATHLETIC MEET SHE HAS BEEN PESTERING ME INTO INTRODUCING HER TO YOU
IT'S STILL EARLY FOR HER TO BE INTRODUCED TO HIGH SOCIETY, SHE IS ONLY 14 YEARS OLD, BUT TONIGHT I BROUGHT HER ALONG SPECIALLY
TO GET MARRIED...
TO THIS GIRL?

MAYBE IT'S INEVITABLE TO TAKE A SHORTCUT...

IF I'M NOT BLESSED WITH NAPOLEON'S FORTUNE AND TALENT...

IT'S CERTAINLY THE PATH TO A SUCCESSFUL CAREER

TO BE ADOPTED AND GET MARRIED WITH AN INFLUENTIAL PERSON IS TO KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE


WHO IS ONLY 14 YEARS OLD
FOR A 23 YEARS OLD MAN IT IS A BIT EMBARRASSING TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND...
NATALIA NIKOLAEVNA
BUT PUSHKIN FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT WITH HER
AND THEIR AGE GAP IS BIGGER

!
!
MRS. PUSHKIN
TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
Pecks
YES
I'M GLAD
BARON D'ANTHES,
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE

WE HAVE JUST MET
WE DON'T HAVE SUCH A RELATION-SHIP...
SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF MINIS-TER NES-SELRODE
WHAT AM I DOING MAKING EXCUSES?
WHO
I'M HIS FIANCEE
VICTORIA KARLO-VNA
PIA...
I WILL BRING A SWEET DRINK FOR YOU.
AH... BARON?
BARON D'ANTHES?
EKA-TE-RINA
COUNT NESSEL-RODE...
EH
WE ARE SORRY FOR DIS-TURBING YOU!
LET'S GO, EKATE-RINA
EXCUSE US, BA-RON

IT'S FUN JUST TO TALK WITH HIM A LITTLE BIT.
I DON'T MIND IT.
NATALIA WHY ARE YOU MAD?
SUDDENLY
I DON'T WANT YOU TO FEEL BAD
HE WANTS TO GET FRIENDLY WITH THE DAUGHTER OF AN INFLUENTIAL MAN
HE IS THAT KIND OF PERSON!!
EKATERINA
WHAT IS IT?
EKATERINA CAN DEAL WITH THIS LIKE AN ADULT
IF IT WERE ME I WOULD BE MAD AS HELL
MRS PUSHKIN!

NOW THAT WE FINALLY MET AGAIN, YOU ADOPT SUCH AN ATTITUDE
COULD IT BE THAT YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT OUR LAST CONVERSATION?
THE "C..N-CELL..TION OF OUR FRIENDSHIP".
CARON D'ANTHES
....
IT'S REGRETTABLE, ISN'T IT?
I WITHDRAW MY WORDS
YOU ARE A FRIEND

WILL THIS DO?
WHAT A MEAN WAY TO SAY IT
DO YOU ENJOY HURTING ME?
YOU ARE A REALLY COLD PERSON
Surprised

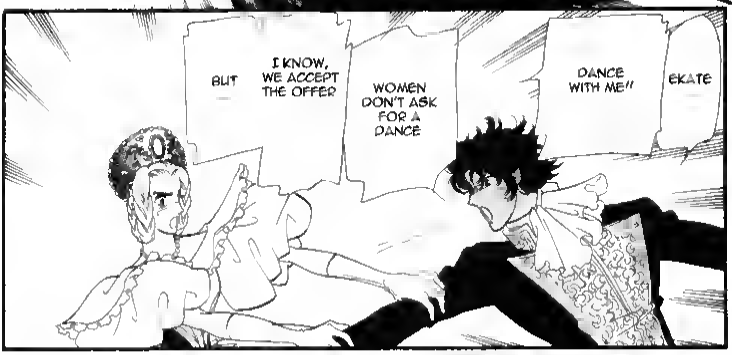
YOU ARE THE WORST.
NATALIA
OH NO, I'M CRYING...
!?

NATALIA
EH?
I HATE YOU
!
THUD
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR FRIVOLOUS TALK, NOR YOUR SARCASM!
DON'T LOOK
MRS. PUSHKIN?
DON'T RUN AFTER ME
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR EXTREMELY HANDSOME FACE!!
NATALIA
AH.
WHY AM I SO CONFUSED?

YOU ARE CRYING, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED?
NATALIA!!
YOU ARE WRO...
MRS PUSHKIN
!
SO I REALLY MADE YOU CRY...
YOU?
TAKE OFF

SASHA?
IT CAN'T BE...
SASHA, YOU ARE WRONG!
Clench
IT CAN'T BE...
I CHA-LLENGE YOU TO A DUEL.

SASHA, PLEASE, LISTEN TO ME!
DON'T ACCEPT IT, BARON!
PLEASE, STOP!
Grabs

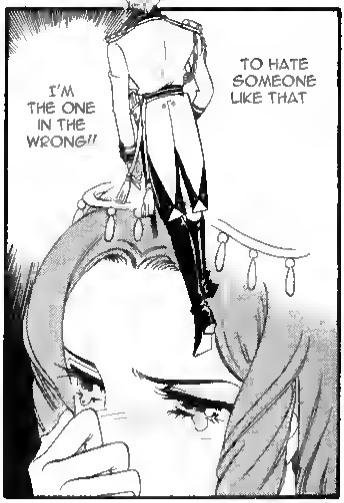

BUT
I KNOW, WE ACCEPT THE OFFER
WOMEN DON'T ASK FOR A DANCE
DANCE WITH ME!!
EKATE

IT'S A BALL!!
TONIGHT...

I DON'T DANCE AT THE COURT BALLS
WEARING SUCH CLOTHES
YES, I KNOW
BUT I DIDN'T WANT A FIGHT

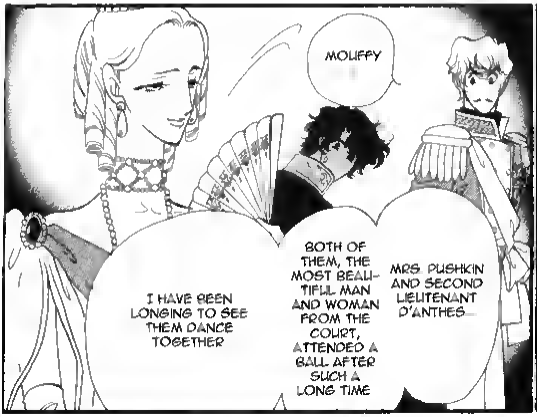
BARON D'ANTHES, PLEASE GO QUICKLY TO ASK A DANCE TO NES-SELRODE'S DAUGHTER!
SHE IS THAT WAY
MR PUSH-KIN COME HERE

...
Are you ok Natalie?
Go away


TO HATE SOMEONE LIKE THAT
I'M THE ONE IN THE WRONG!!

WE DON'T SUIT, I KNOW.
IT'S ONLY MY UNREQUITED LOVE
YOU AND BARON D'ANTHES?
NATALIA DID IT FOR MY SAKE
SHE WAS MEDIATING BETWEEN BARON D'ANTHES AND ME
I'M SORRY
SO DON'T MISUNDERSTAND THIS
AS A SHY GIRL IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO GET CLOSE TO BARON D'ANTHES...
NATALIA FELT PITY FOR ME
BENKENDORF
ALEXANDER SERGEEVICH PUSHKIN, COME HERE
FOR MAKING YOU SAY SUCH A CONFESSION...

PUSHKIN
YOU HAVEN'T THANKED THE TSAR FOR THE FURLOUGH MATTER YET.
HE WANTS ME TO DO IT?
I, AS THE MONARCH, DID SOMETHING FOR YOU
I WASN'T EXPECTING A TOKEN OF YOUR GRATITUDE...
HOWEVER THERE IS SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE AS A COMPENSATION.
IT WOULD BE A GREAT HONOUR...
I WISH YOU TO ALLOW ME A DANCE WITH NATALIA NIKOLAEVNA.

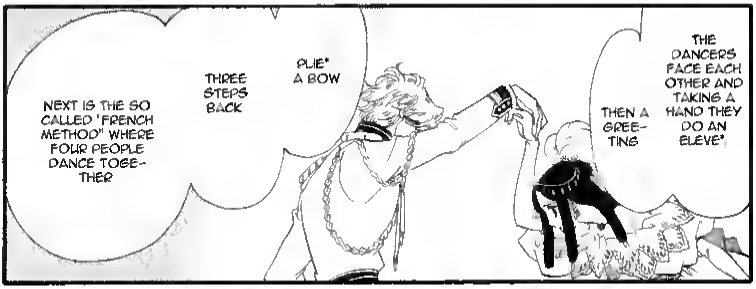

MOLIERE
I HAVE BEEN LONGING TO SEE THEM DANCE TOGETHER
BOTH OF THEM, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MAN AND WOMAN FROM THE COURT, ATTENDED A BALL AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME
MRS. PUSHKIN AND SECOND LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES...
laughs
DEAR...

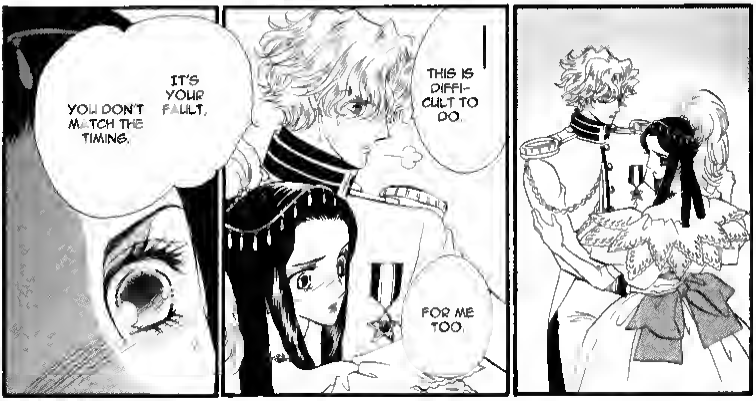
I HAVEN'T DANCED IT
WHAT ABOUT YOU, AUNT?
I ONLY SAW IT ONCE, A MONTH AGO
MAYBE I THINK IT'S A FRENCH STYLE PATTERN
TO DANCE WITH BARON D'ANTHES AND THEIR MAJESTIES?
THE NEW QUADRILLE YOU SAID...
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DANCE IT
EVEN THOUGH YOU ASK ME...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO IF I'M THE LEAD?

*QUADRILLE: A DANCE PERFORMED BY FOUR COUPLES IN A SQUARE FORMATION

I WAS TOLD BY THE EMPRESS...
THAT THE QUADRILLE WILL START AT MIDNIGHT
I WILL BE HERE IN 30 MINUTES...
THEN I,
WAIT A MOMENT,
BARON D'ANTHES
!
UNTIL MIDNIGHT
I WISH YOU TO TEACH NATALIA THE NEW QUADRILLE
SASHA
IF IT'S ABOUT THE DUEL WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER
I WITHDRAW IT!
I MISUNDERSTOOD
PLEASE, ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES
AND

IF HER HUSBAND GIVES ME PERMIS-SION...
PLEASE!
IT'S NOT PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT,
YOU ONLY HAVE TO ADD A NEW STEP MIDWAY
IT'S LIKE THE OLD QUADRILLE BUT IT CHANGES AT THE FIFTH PART
THE CHANGES TAKE PLACE IN THE SECOND AND FINAL PARTS...


NEXT IS THE SO CALLED "FRENCH METHOD" WHERE FOUR PEOPLE DANCE TOGE-THER
THREE STEPS BACK
PLIE* A BOW
THEN A GREE-TING
THE DANCERS FACE EACH OTHER AND TAKING A HAND THEY DO AN ELEVE*



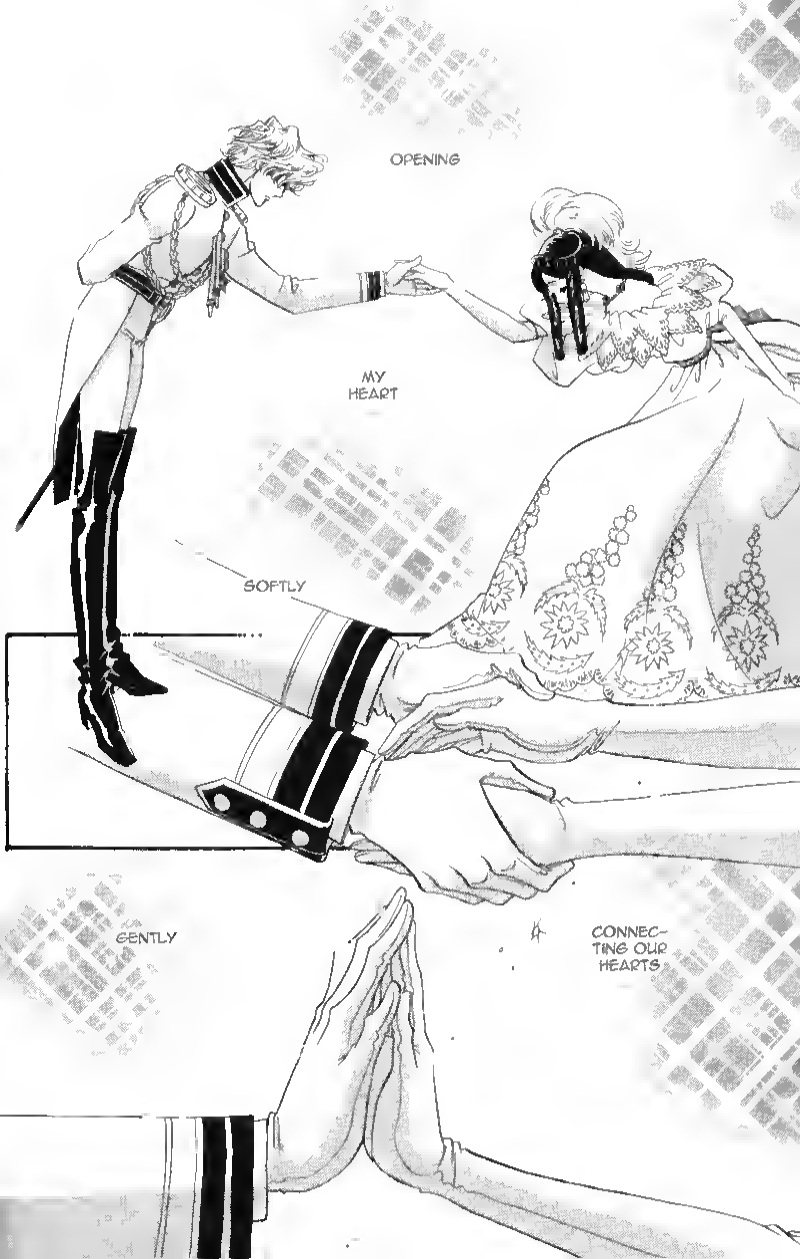
THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T LOOK ME IN THE EYE
YOU HAVE NO INTEN-TION OF ACCEPTING OR MEETING WITH ME
PERHAPS YOU ARE SHUTTING YOUR STUB-BORN HEART TO ME ONLY.
I ALWAYS ENJOY DANCING
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT IT THAT WAY
WHY IS IT MY FAULT?

*ELEVE: DANCE MOVEMENT. TO RISE DIRECTLY TO DEMI OR POINTE FROM FLAT FEET ALL THE WAY TO THE BALLS OF THE FEET

BUT
IT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY THAT
WHAT IS IT? SPEAK FRANKLY
YOU ARE MOVING ON YOUR OWN, IGNORING ME
THAT'S WHY WE COLLIDE WITH EACH OTHER
IN A DANCE TWO PERSON'S HEARTS MEET
IF THEY MOVE AT THE SAME TIME IN THE SAME DIRECTION IT'S MUCH EASIER
I CAN FEEL IT COMING OUT FROM YOUR BODY...
SOMETHING OFFENSIVE
SO I...
I FEEL I WON'T BE ABLE TO DEFEND MYSELF
EVERY-BODY,
THE QUADRI-LLE LEAD BY THE TSAR IS GOING TO START!!
IT'S MID-NIGHT
Bzh
Bzh
Bzh
It's the most beautiful couple.
Look, Georges D'Anthès is going to dance with Mrs. Pushkin.

EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT TOO THRILLED ABOUT THE IDEA
I SEE
FIRST LET'S START FROM THE RUDIMENTS,
LET'S PRACTICE FEELING EACH OTHER THROUGH OUR HANDS.
GRIPS
WE ARE DANCING WITH THEIR MAJESTIES, WE ARE THE FOCUS OF ALL GLANCES.
I DON'T WANT TO COMMIT A BLUNDER.
THIS SORT OF THING AGAIN...
I'M THAT TYPE OF PERSON,
I WANT TO BE ACCEPTED

JUST AS IT IS?
HIM?
TO ACCEPT ...
THROUGH OUR HANDS"
FEELING EACH OTHER


OPENING
MY HEART
SOFTLY
GENTLY
CONNECTING OUR HEARTS

HONESTLY...

IT SEEMS THAT THE TSAR WHISPERED SOMETHING TO ME
...you
SHE EXTENDS HER HAND
Offers
BEFORE I OFFER MY HAND

ARE DOING IT NOW
THOSE EYES, THAT DIDN'T WANT TO LOOK AT ME BEFORE
HER SHOULDERS
EVERYTHING FEELS SO NATURAL
THE WAY SHE TURNS HER HIPS
THE STEPS ARE BECOMING FASTER,
THE TURNINGS ARE BIGGER,
THE MUSIC IS REACHING THE GALLOP"

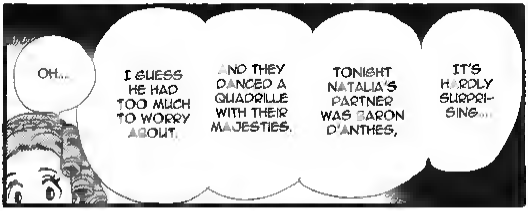
SMILE.
SUCH A BRILLIANT ...

Rattle
Rattle
Rattle

WELCOME
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP AT SUCH A LATE HOUR ALEXANDRA?
I WAS READING A BOOK.
I COULDN'T SLEEP BECAUSE OF THE WHITE NIGHTS

IT'S NOTHING.
AND MR. PUSHKIN WAS ALL WORRIED ABOUT IT.
NATALIA WAS LOOKING SEXY.
THE SAME THAT HAPPENS IN EVERY EVENING PARTY.
BUT MR. PUSHKIN DIDN'T SAY A SINGLE WORD.
IT'S STRANGE.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?
WELL...


OH...
I GUESS HE HAD TOO MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT.
AND THEY DANCED A QUADRILLE WITH THEIR MAJESTIES.
TONIGHT NATALIA'S PARTNER WAS BARON D'ANTHES.
IT'S HARDLY SURPRISING...

...
NATALIA DANCED WITH BARON D'ANTHES?

THE LAST TUNE
IS TURNING ROUND AND ROUND IN MY HEAD
I CAN'T GET IT OUT
I'M TIRED
COME HERE

BUT...
NATALIA...
...LIA...

NATALIA,
OPEN YOUR EYES
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
TURN TOWARD HERE
LOOK AT ME, NATALIA

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
I'M LOOKING AT YOU, SASHA
TEARS ARE FALLING ON THEIR OWN.

Bronze no Tenshi
Volume 4 Chapter 14

Scanned by
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Translated by
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Euphemium

Edited by
Montana

QC by Frostflower

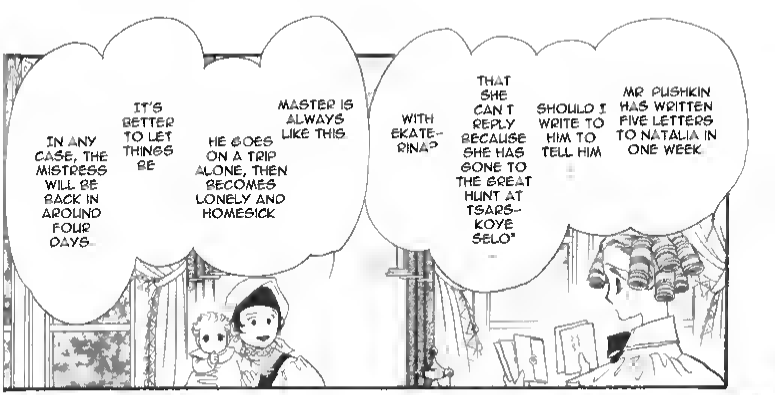
Vol. 14 A Beautiful Trophy

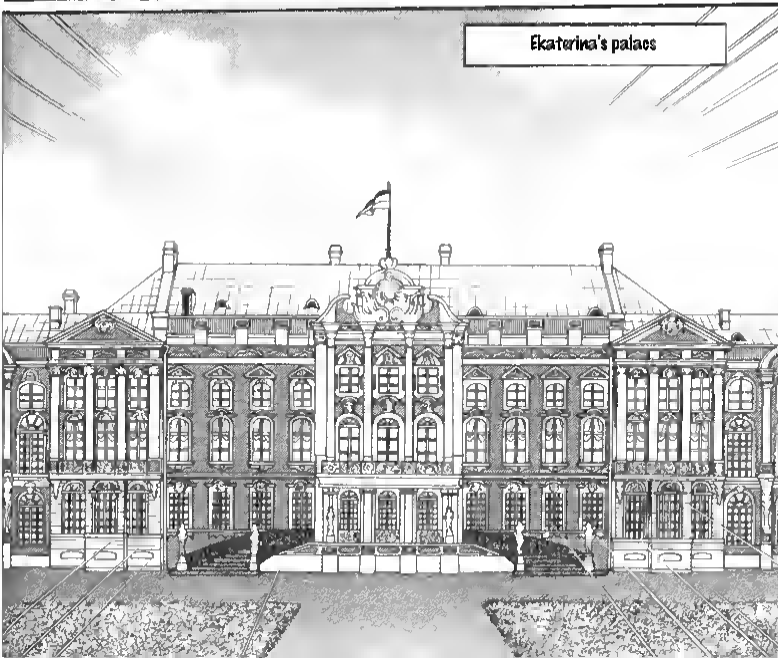
Yesterday, I saw a wolf.
Perhaps it's the same wolf
I like its eyes.
I feel as though we are similar.
It's the second time I have during this week in Boldino.

Truly, I wonder why I chose not to bring you
I wish I could have shown them to you
That's what I thought when I first saw them
Although wolves are usually considered villains, I find those that travel with their young to be rather charming
I suppose autumn has always been an especial season for my creativity, and so I thought I would require some solitude
I take to bed at nine in the evening, and I rise at seven in the morning I spend every day in taking walks I cannot stop thinking about you
My angelic wife,
Should I not receive at least a line from you, I shall grow wild with my imaginings of what might have gone
Please, write me a letter as soon as you may and tell me how our home and children are faring
Best regards to Coco and Ada *

*EKATERINA AND ALEXANDRA'S PETNAMES

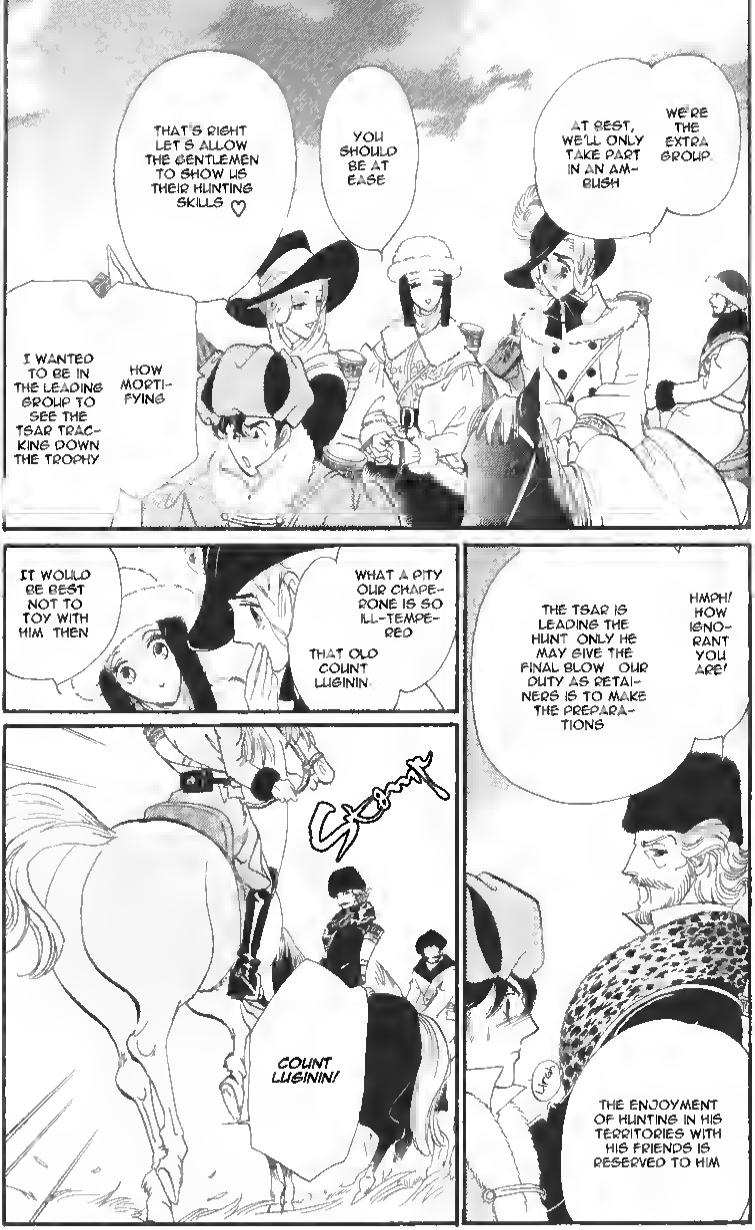
*FORMER RESIDENCE OF THE RUSSIAN IMPERIAL FAMILY.


IN ANY CASE, THE MISTRESS WILL BE BACK IN AROUND FOUR DAYS.
IT'S BETTER TO LET THINGS BE
HE GOES ON A TRIP ALONE, THEN BECOMES LONELY AND HOMESICK
MASTER IS ALWAYS LIKE THIS
WITH EKATE-RINA?
THAT SHE CAN'T REPLY BECAUSE SHE HAS GONE TO THE GREAT HUNT AT TSARS-KOYE SELO*
SHOULD I WRITE TO HIM TO TELL HIM
MR. PUSHKIN HAS WRITTEN FIVE LETTERS TO NATALIA IN ONE WEEK



First day of the hunt
YOUR MAJESTY, IT WAS REPORTED THAT A BLACK WOLF WAS SEEN AT THE WEST OAK FOREST
DO YOU THINK IT'S PERHAPS THAT WOLF?
THE WOLF WE CAPTURED THREE YEARS AGO AND SET FREE?
IF IT HAS GROWN WISER THE CHASE WILL ONLY BE MORE EXHILARATING
WE CAN CAPTURE IT ONCE AGAIN
THIS YEAR, LET'S TRACK IT DOWN AND KILL IT, YOUR MAJESTY!
WE ARE TO INSPECT THE FORMATION OF THE HUNTING PARTIES
COLLECT THE HUNTERS PERSONS IN CHARGE OF HOUNDS AND BEATERS!
ADVANCE PARTY, ENTER THE COACHES!
THEY PREPARED FIFTY COACHES FOR WIVES
I CAN'T GET ON!
STUFF SIX AT A TIME IN EACH COACH!
RATHER THAN GO TO THE HUNTING GROUND,
I PREFER TO WAIT FOR HIS MAJESTY TO RETURN HERE AT LEISURE.
I'M A RATHER UNENERGETIC SORT OF WOMAN
AND SO THE IDEA OF RUNNING AFTER THE TROPHY FOR SO MANY DAYS
SOUNDS SIMPLY AWFUL TO ME

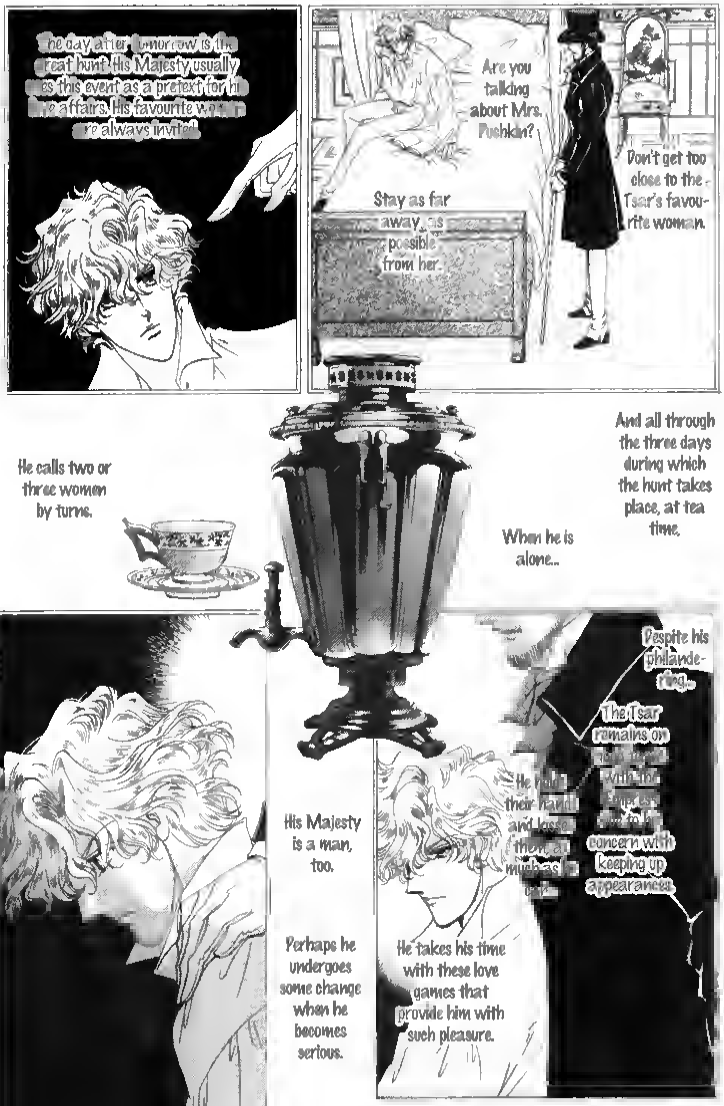
Woof
Woof
Woof
Whistle


I WANTED TO BE IN THE LEADING GROUP TO SEE THE TSAR TRACKING DOWN THE TROPHY
HOW MORTIFYING
THAT'S RIGHT LET'S ALLOW THE GENTLEMEN TO SHOW US THEIR HUNTING SKILLS ♡
YOU SHOULD BE AT EASE
AT REST, WE'LL ONLY TAKE PART IN AN AMBUSH
WE'RE THE EXTRA GROUP.
IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO TOY WITH HIM THEN
WHAT A PITY OUR CHAPERONE IS SO ILL-TEMPERED
THAT OLD COUNT LUGININ
Grunt
COUNT LUGININ!
THE TSAR IS LEADING THE HUNT ONLY HE MAY GIVE THE FINAL BLOW OUR DUTY AS RETAINERS IS TO MAKE THE PREPARATIONS
HMPH! HOW IGNORANT YOU ARE!
Sigh
THE ENJOYMENT OF HUNTING IN HIS TERRITORIES WITH HIS FRIENDS IS RESERVED TO HIM

I'M HERE TO GIVE YOU A MESSAGE.
YOUR GROUP IS ASKED TO TAKE POSITIONS FROM THE SOUTHERN WHEAT FIELDS TO THE BROOK.
LET'S GO!
LET'S RIDE HALF OF THE WAY AS A GROUP.
COME HERE, EVERYBODY!
UNDERSTOOD!
Gee up!
BARON D'ANTHES!

MRS PUSHKIN

I'll be going on a trip for around three months. During my absence, I would like you to make me a promise.
You must be careful, for the sake of your future.
Baron d'Anthes.


The day after tomorrow is the great hunt. His Majesty usually uses this event as a pretext for his love affairs. His favourite women are always invited.
Are you talking about Mrs. Pushkin?
Don't get too close to the Tsar's favourite woman.
Stay as far away as possible from her.
He calls two or three women by turns.
And all through the three days during which the hunt takes place, at tea time.
When he is alone...
His Majesty is a man, too.
Perhaps he undergoes some change when he becomes serious.
He takes his time with these love games that provide him with such pleasure.
Despite his philandering...
The Tsar remains on
with
concern with keeping up appearances.

Yes.
I leave the matter in your hands.
I'm going on this trip for your sake.
I'm to meet your father and finalise the details of your adoption.
You're truly determined to become my son, aren't you?
Then..
I sincerely hope that you will take care.

ENJOYING A GOOD CONVERSATION IS PART OF THE NECESSARY ETIQUETTE OF SOCIAL LIFE
AS IF I WOULD CONCERN MYSELF WITH SUCH THINGS!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD COME TO THE HUNT
YOU MANAGE THE HORSE WONDERFULLY
DID YOU RECEIVE AN INVITATION FROM THE TSAR?
I'M STILL NOT USED TO THE HORSE I'M ALWAYS PESTERING NATALIA TO COME WITH ME
RIGHT, NATALIA?
ARE THESE WOMEN NICHOLAS'S TEA FRIENDS FOR THIS YEAR?
I'M CLUMSY AT HORSE-RIDING TO THE POINT OF MAKING A FOOL OF MYSELF,
BUT I WANTED TO HAVE A CLOSER VIEW OF THE HUNT
MRS PUSHKIN IS VERY SKILLFUL AT HANDLING A HORSE
SHE'S MY CURRENT FAVOURITE LADY
NATALIA NIKOLAEVNA DOESN'T BEHAVE FORMALLY SHE'S NATURAL, AND I ADMIRE THAT!
I'M TO GUIDE YOU TO THE CASTLE AT WHICH YOU'LL BE STAYING TONIGHT
I'LL COME AGAIN THIS EVENING

WHAT? IN THIS SEASON?
IT'S A SWAN
YOUR MAJESTY?
WHAT IS IT? A TROPHY?
WHEN HE COMES NEAR ME
MY CHEST ACHES
IN FRONT OF EKATERINA, I ONLY SPEAK NONSENSE
I CANNOT COMPOSE MY REPLIES
I THINK OF IT UNCEASINGLY
AND I CANNOT REPLY TO MY HUSBAND'S LETTER.
I'M SO WEARY OF IT ALL.
I WANT THINGS TO BE AS THEY WERE.

Second day of the hunt
THERE HAS BEEN A REPORT OF A BLACK WOLF BEING SEEN AMONG THE MOUNTAINS.
RUN AFTER IT!
RELEASE THE BORZOIS AND BEAGLES TO SEARCH FOR IT!
ALL WE'VE CAUGHT TODAY ARE SOME RABBITS AND DEER.
How frightening.
"SO-CALLED "RUSSIAN WOLFHOUNDS" BRED FOR THE HUNT THAT WERE ONCE EXCLUSIVE T THE IMPERIAL FAMILY.
Third day of the hunt
THIS AFTERNOON'S HUNTING WILL BE CANCELLED.
WE WILL WAIT UNTIL THE RAIN CEASES.
BARON D'ANTHES.
THE IDEA OF CANCELLING THE HUNT FOR A LITTLE RAIN IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE.
IT'S AN ORDER FROM ABOVE.
WE HAVE TO LEAVE THE WOMEN AT THE INN.
I'LL TAKE MISS EKATERINA AND MRS. PUSHKIN TO THE CASTLE IT WHICH THEY ARE TO SPEND THE NIGHT.
BARON D'ANTHES?

WHAT, A STERN FACE...
BARON...
YOU'RE MOVING TOO QUICKLY...
EKATERINA
WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH US..

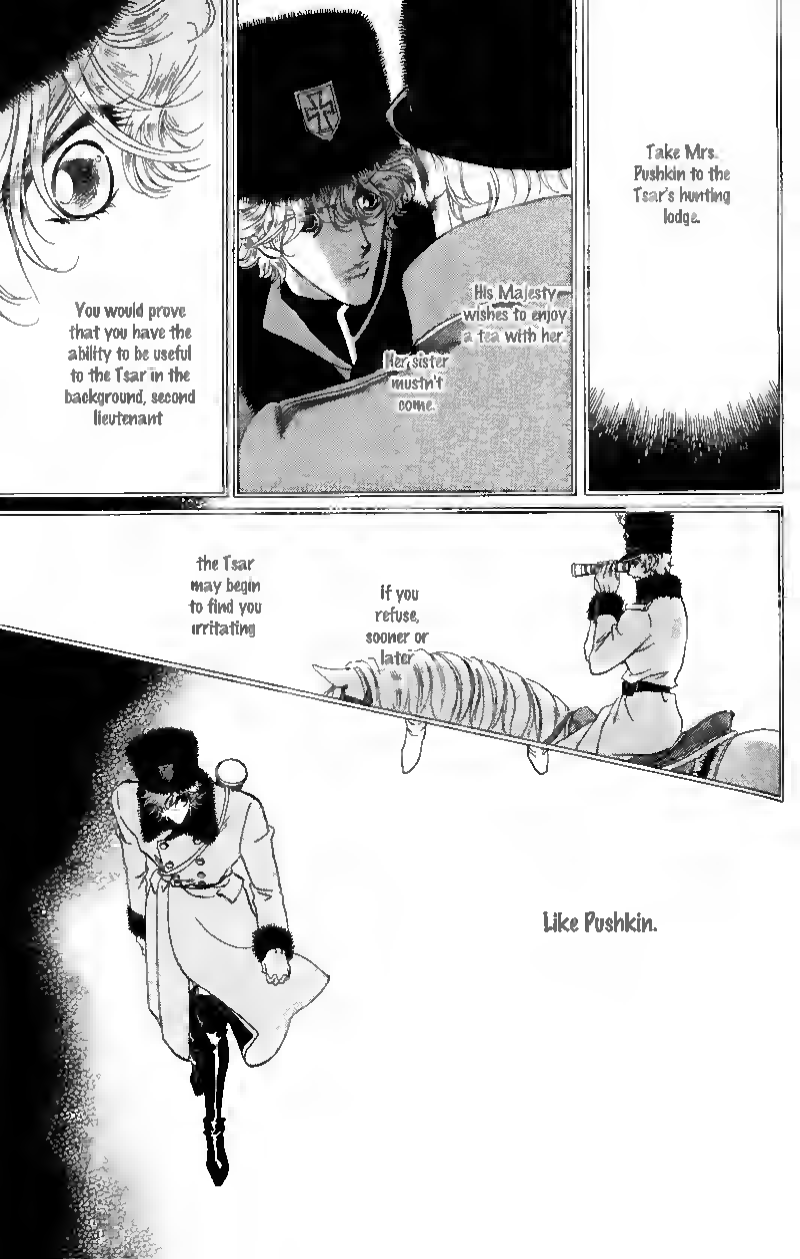
BUT...
DON'T WORRY!
IVANOV IS WITH HER.
HE'LL TAKE HER TO THE CASTLE
CLOP CLOP
THE RAIN IS BEGINNING TO FALL MORE HEAVILY. WE NEED TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
I'LL WAIT HERE FOR MY SISTER.
I WON'T ALLOW IT!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WELL...
EKATERINA AND I ARE GOING TO THE SAME PLACE, AREN'T WE?
WHY DON'T WE WAIT HERE FOR A MOMENT?
ISN'T THIS...
STRANGE?
LET'S GO.

I'M FRIGHTENED OF BEING SEPARATED FROM EVERYBODY
COME ON
NO.
AND OF BEING ALONE WITH HIM.

EVEN IF WE WERE TO WAIT FOR YOUR SISTER HERE, SHE WOULDN'T COME
IVANOV WILL LEAD HER DOWN AN EASIER PATH. THEY'LL TAKE A DETOUR.
MISS EKATERINA HAS NOT YET HAD ENOUGH PRACTICE ON HORSEBACK
HE WON'T HARM ME
No!
TRUST ME
COME ON, LEST WE BOTH CATCH COLDS
AM I THINKING TOO MUCH?

LET S WAIT HERE FOR A WHILE
UNTIL THE RAIN IS GONE
IT S RAINING HEAVILY NOW
THE RAIN SHOULD LESSEN SLIGHTLY ONCE THAT CLOUD PASSES

I WAS WEAK.
Second lieutenant D'Anthes...
Even the Tsar admires your stunning hunting skills
General Benkendorf...
He has an order for you.
I UNDERSTAND HER NERVOUSNESS.
WE'RE SO CLOSE
HER WARMTH
I CAN EVEN FEEL
Second lieutenant D'Anthes...


You would prove that you have the ability to be useful to the Tsar in the background, second lieutenant
His Majesty wishes to enjoy a tea with her.
Her sister mustn't come.
Take Mrs. Pushkin to the Tsar's hunting lodge.
the Tsar may begin to find you irritating
If you refuse, sooner or later
Like Pushkin.

HOW UNREFI-NED!
DAMN NICHOLAS!
IN THE COURT, HIS INFATUA-TIONS ARE WELL-KNOWN
IS THAT HIS PLAN NOW? TO HAVE TEA WITH THE MARRIED LADIES?
BUT IT'S MORE THAN A SIMPLE TEA.
IF THEY'RE ALONE IN THE HUNTING LODGE...

JUST AS IT WAS A YEAR AGO HER HUSBAND ISN'T THERE TO PROTECT HER!
IF THE TSAR WERE TO COURT HER, SHE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO REJECT HIM.
THE MOMENT OF TRUTH IS GROWING NEARER AND SHE KNOWS NOTHING OF IT.
AND SHE IS TERRIBLY NERVOUS.
NOW IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US.
WHY IS IT I WHO MUST TAKE HER TO THE LION'S DEN?!

!
WAIT A MOMENT
...
WE SHOULD BE GOING
Pull
WHAT?
I CAN T MOVE
THE HORSES

HEY!
GET AWAY FROM EACH OTHER!
STOP THAT! THOSE POOR THINGS
NOW THAT THEY'VE FINALLY
Giggle
Hee Hee Hee
TO LAUGH AT A TIME SUCH AS THIS...
...
HOW CHARMING.

I AM NOW THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN POSSIBLY PROTECT HER SMILE FROM NICHOLAS.

ISN'T SHE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE TSAR'S FAVOUR?

WAIT A MOMENT DOESN'T IT

DOESN'T IT SEEM AS THOUGH I WERE IN LOVE...
BARON D'ANTHES?

—WITH
NATALIA
NIKOLAEVNA?

THIS IS WHERE I'M TO STAY TONIGHT?

WHY DOES IT HAVE THE TSAR'S MARK ON IT?
IT'S THE TSAR'S HUNTING LODGE
WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?
BARON D'ANTHES?
MY SISTER EKATERINA WILL STAY HERE TOO, WON'T SHE?

IT'S THE TSAR'S WISH THAT YOU REST HERE FOR THE TIME BEING
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY
EXCUSE ME
BARON?
COME BACK TO YOUR SENSES, GEORGES D'ANTHES!
OH, SECOND LIEUTE-NANT
I APPRE-CIATE YOUR EFFORTS.
YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED THE DUTY THAT WAS ASKED OF YOU.

IT CAN'T BE...
YOUR... YOUR MAJESTY...
WHY MUST SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?
MRS. PUSHKIN,
I'VE BEEN AWAITING YOU IMPA-TIENTLY.
P... PLEASE
WHEN WE WERE DANCING THE QU...-DRILLE,
I TOLD YOU THAT I WISHED TO BE ALONE WITH YOU.
AND YOU AGREED..
BARON D'ANTHES BROUGHT ME HERE KNOWING IT ALL?

I BEG YOUR PARDON
HOLD IT THIS WAY.
IF YOU SEPARATE YOUR HANDS, YOU'LL BURN THE TSAR
I DIDN'T HEAR IT OVER THE MUSIC...
YOU?
THAT TIME?
WHAT FAIR SKIN
YOU ARMS ARE SO SWANLIKE
I COULDN'T CAPTURE A BLACK WOLF...
YOU...
...RE THE ONE I CAPTURED INSTEAD

Catherine
AM I YOUR MAJESTY'S TROPHY?
MARRIAGE IS SACRED YOUR MAJESTY
RUSSIAN WOMEN REMAIN MARRIED TO THEIR HUSBANDS FOR LIFE
DON'T BE NERVOUS
THIS IS AN HONOR
MY POWER
IS ABSOLUTE BY THE GRACE OF GOD
STAG

THERE WAS A GUNSHOT NEARBY!
WHAT?
THERE'S A BLACK WOLF IN THAT DIRECTION!

BLACK WOLVES!
YOUR MAJESTY, THERE ARE WOLVES NEARBY!
THE RAIN HAS BECOME A DRIZZLE!
LET'S RESUME THE HUNT.
WHERE DID YOU SEE THEM, SECOND LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES?
WHEN I LEFT THE MAIN BUILDING THROUGH THE WEST GATE, I SAW THEM LURKING AROUND THE HILL THICKETS.
MRS. PUSHKIN, ARE YOU THERE?
NO, THE TSAR COULDN'T HAVE
HURT HER, COULD HE?
OH, I'M GLAD.
Push

DON'T TOUCH ME!
YOU'RE A HORRIBLE MAN!
I MIS-JUDGED YOU!
IF THE WOLF HADN'T APPEARED, WHAT WOULD HAVE BECOME OF ME?
HUSH, NOW
IF WE ESCAPE WHILE HE'S OFF HUNTING, THERE WON'T BE ANY COMPLAINTS
DON'T WORRY
THE WOLF HUNT WON'T FINISH ANYTIME SOON
IT WAS A LIE
I DID IT TO RESCUE YOU!
ARE YOU COMPLETELY SENSELESS?
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE STORY OF THE BOY WHO CRIED WOLF?
IF THEY REALISE THAT IT WAS A LIE
IF THEY CAN'T FIND IT AFTER ALL, SOMEONE IS SURE TO BECOME SUSPICIOUS OF YOU!
YOU'LL LOSE THEIR TRUST!
The wolf boy?
HOW WHOLLY UNEXPECTED! I NEVER IMAGINED HEARING SOMETHING LIKE THIS FROM YOU
Rustle

GROWL
!

!
SHAA
DON'T KILL IT!
B..IRON?

IT HAS BEEN CAPTURED BEFORE. IT'S A DANGEROUS WOLF
A FEROCIOUS BEAST
AND...
LOOK. IT HAS CHILDREN
LET IT GO
THAT'S NOT A SUFFICIENT REASON.
IT PROVES THAT THERE TRULY WERE WOLVES NEARBY!
THIS IS FOR...
OUR OWN SAKE!
BANG

Blah
Blah
Blah
Arg
Arg
A BLACK WOLF
IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME
YOU BROUGHT IT DOWN, SECOND LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES
PLEASE GIVE IT THE FINISHING BLOW
IT WOULD THEN BE YOUR MAJESTY'S TROPHY
HMM

I'M NO LONGER CERTAIN.
OR ARE YOU NOT?
ARE YOU A GOOD PERSON?
BANG
!
I CAN'T TAKE..
MY EYES OFF OF YOU.

Bronze no Tenshi
Volume 4 Chapter 15

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Vol. 15 Love Prelude

SINCE THEN
…
I HAVE A FEELING THAT EVERY-THING HAS CHANGED.

WE ARE ALWAYS CONSCIOUS OF EACH OTHER
WE CAN NEVER RETURN
TO THE TIME DURING WHICH WE FELT NOTHING

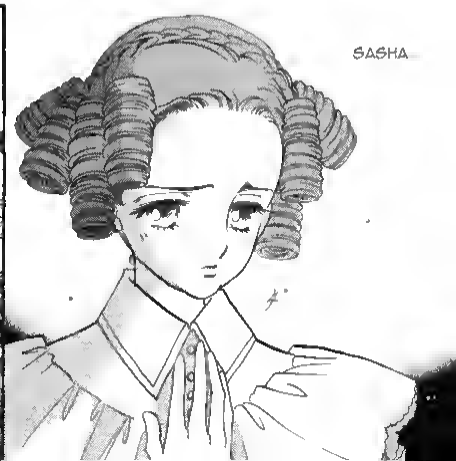
WHAT I SHOULD DO FROM NOW ON
I DON'T KNOW...
WHAT SORT OF FACE SHOULD I PUT ON WHEN WE NEXT MEET?
"SASHA, EVERYTHING IS WELL HERE SO PLEASE LET YOUR MIND BE AT EASE AND CONTINUE WITH YOUR WORK
THE SERVANTS ARE DOING THEIR WORK PROPERLY THE CHILDREN TROUBLE ME WITH THEIR MISCHIEF
I'M SURE THEY WANT TO SEE THEIR PAPA, AS DO I
LOTS OF KISSES FOR YOU GOOD-BYE."
WHAT A DULL LETTER!
ALEXAN-DRA
DID YOU WRITE IT?
AH

I WAS JOKING!
BUT MR. PUSHKIN WRITES SUCH INTERESTING LETTERS TO YOU EVERY DAY. THIS ISN'T ALL YOU'RE GOING TO WRITE, IS IT?
YOU CAN WRITE ABOUT THE HUNT, OR...
I DON'T WANT TO WRITE ANY SORT OF LETTER...
SHOULD I WRITE IT IN YOUR PLACE?
PERHAPS YOU WOULD BE BETTER SUITED...
I WANT S...SHA TO RETURN...S SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I'M HIS WIFE.
I WANT HIM TO HOLD ME IN HIS ARMS AND EMBRACE ME, TIGHTLY...
I WASN'T ABLE TO TELL HER
THAT I SENT A LETTER TO MR. PUSHKIN DURING HER ABSENCE.
Close

I HAVE REREAD IT COUNTLESS TIMES
"Every night before I go to sleep, all alone, I try to think of pleasant things."
"Thank you for reporting the conditions of the house to me during my absence, my gentle Adi."

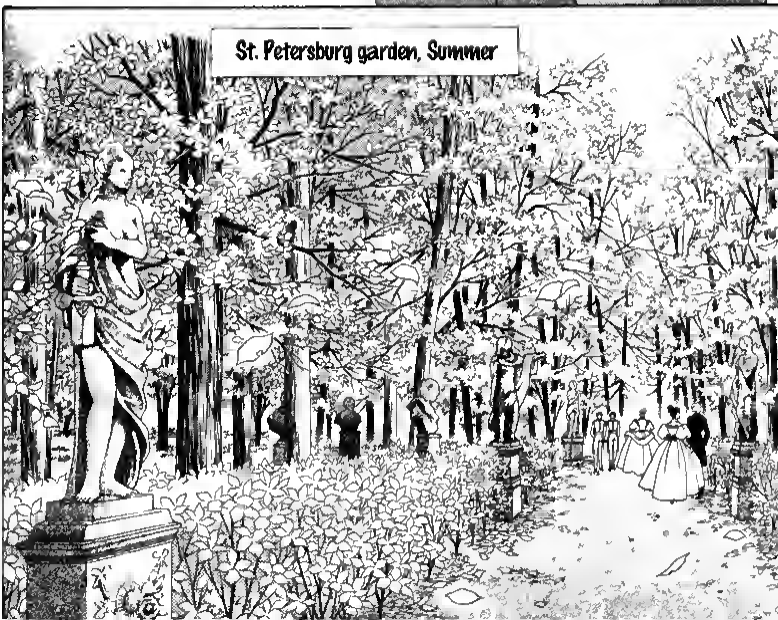
AND HE REPLIED TO ME
I WAS SO HAPPY!

"For example, I might imagine that when I wake up tomorrow there will be a coach outside, under the morning light."
"and Natalia will be inside it."

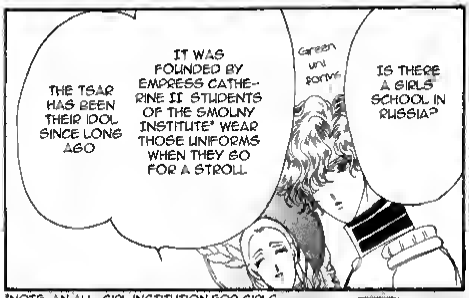

SASHA

"Baron D'Anthes!"
"Don't kill it! It has children, let it go!"
"Baron!"

"I had to kill it ...
for our sake."


St. Petersburg garden, Summer

THEN
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO KILLED THE BLACK WOLF, SECOND LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES?
I SIMPLY CAME ACROSS IT AND RAISED THE ALARM
THE TSAR RAN OVER AT THE CRITICAL MOMENT
OH..
HE SAYS HE WANTS TO DECORATE OUR BEDROOM WITH THAT FUR HE IS SO PROUD OF.
I'M ATTEMPTING TO AVOID SUCH A THING.
THE IDEA OF SLEEPING BESIDE A WOLF IS SOMEWHAT...
Ho Ho Ho
BUT WITH THAT EXCEPTION, THE BOUNTY OF THIS YEAR'S HUNT WAS RATHER POOR
INDEED
AH— YOUR MAJESTY
THE TSAR IS HERE


THE TSAR HAS BEEN THEIR IDOL SINCE LONG AGO
IT WAS FOUNDED BY EMPRESS CATHERINE II STUDENTS OF THE SMOLNY INSTITUTE* WEAR THOSE UNIFORMS WHEN THEY GO FOR A STROLL
Garçon vin sorme
IS THERE A GIRLS SCHOOL IN RUSSIA?

*NOTE: AN ALL-GIRL INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS OF NOBLE ORIGIN IN ST. PETERSBURG

IT'S VERY LIKELY
HAVING VISITED, HE IS ALWAYS IN GOOD CHEER FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY.
VISITING THE GIRLS' INSTITUTE IS ONE OF YOUR MAJESTY'S MOST ENJOYABLE OBLIGATIONS

YOUR SISTER, MRS. PUSHKIN
WAS SHE WELL WHEN SHE RETURNED HOME AFTER THE HUNT?
EXCUSE ME?
SHE DIDN'T COME TO THE BALL THAT WAS HELD TWO DAYS AGO
IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME
OH, ARE YOU EKATERINA GONCHAROVA?
Y-YES, I AM!
I SEE
I HOPE SHE TAKES CARE OF HERSELF
SHE HASN'T BEEN FEELING WELL LATELY
HE ENJOYS THE SENSATION OF BEING ABLE TO TAKE CONTROL BY HIMSELF
HE CAN MAINTAIN A GOOD BALANCE IF ALLOWED TO HAVE A REST NOW AND THEN
ON THE SUBJECT OF WOMEN..
I TRUST MY HUSBAND
EMPRESS?

SUCH IS EXPECTED OF THE DAUGHTER OF THE KING OF PRUSSIA
SHE IS INTELLIGENT
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN A TEMPESTUOUS LOVE FULL OF FUTILE JEALOUSLY
SOMEHOW, THAT ASPECT OF MY PERSONALITY IS QUITE APPARENT,
SO WOMEN APPROACH THE TSAR AT EASE
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A RIDE ON MY BOAT?
WELCOME, NIKI
SHE IS TOO GOOD FOR NICHOLAS
LET ME TREAT YOU TO SOME TEA
SECOND LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES!

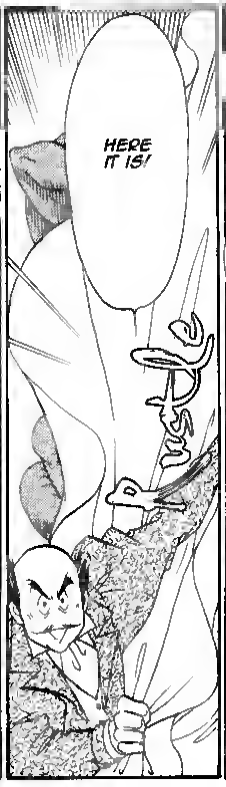
NATALIA NIKOLAEVNA HAS MISUNDERSTOOD SOMETHING
I WANT HER TO PUT IT OUT OF MIND.
THE TWO OF YOU RE INTIMATE FRIENDS. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TELL HER SOMETHING FOR ME.
THAT MY SLIGHT ATTEMPT TO EMBRACE HER WAS ONLY DUE TO MY ADMIRATION OF HER BEAUTY AND LOVELINESS
THAT THERE WAS NO ULTERIOR MOTIVE.
Creak
AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?
"SLIGHT ATTEMPT TO EMBRACE HER"
...
SLIGHT, HE SAYS?
...
WON'T YOU?
IN A YEAR OR TWO—
I'M QUITE SURE THAT WE'LL CROSS OVER FROM THE AGE OF SAILING SHIPS TO THAT OF STEAMSHIPS.
OH—
I WILL.

RUSSIA WON'T CONTINUE TO WATCH IN SILENCE
WE WILL CREATE THE STRONGEST NAVY, AND READY STEAMSHIPS WITH SPEED
YOU ARE WONDERING WHY I AM SPEAKING TO YOU OF THIS SUBJECT, AREN'T YOU?
SECOND LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES
AMERICAN AND ENGLISH MERCHANT SHIP COMPANIES ARE COMPETING FOR DOMINANCE
YES, I AGREE
HE CHANGED THE SUBJECT FROM WOMEN TO SHIPS
THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS, TO PERSUADE THE KING TO ENTER THE GERMAN CONFEDERATION- WHERE PRUSSIA PLAYS A LEADING ROLE
I REQUESTED HIM TO GO TO HIS NATIVE LAND
THE TRUTH IS THAT HE IS WORKING FOR ME
YOUR SUPPORTER, BARON HEECKEREN IS CURRENTLY TRAVELING THROUGH EUROPE
IF RUSSIA AND PRUSSIA GAIN POWER, THE EUROPEAN ABSOLUTE MONARCHIES WILL STABILIZE
IF YOU ARE A LEGITIMIST, YOU SHOULD APPROVE OF IT
PERHAPS YOU AREN'T FOND OF THIS SUBJECT, BEING A FRENCHMAN WHO HAS SUFFERED THROUGH A POPULAR REVOLUTION

HEECKEREN WANTS TO HAND EVERYTHING OVER TO YOU. ACCEPTING YOU AS HIS ADOPTED CHILD
INCLUDING HIS OWN WORLDLY WISDOM AS A DIPLOMAT, I'M SURE
HE HAS TRUMPED HIS STATUS AS A RESIDENT AMBASSADOR
OVER HIS NORLE DUTCH ORIGINS
I ASSIGN IMPORTANT TASKS TO HIM BECAUSE HE IS A CAPABLE MAN. IT MEANS NOTHING TO ME THAT HE IS A FOREIGNER
YOUR MAJESTY
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KEEP THIS IN MIND
HE IS LOOKING FOR A PATH THAT BENEFITS BOTH COUNTRIES, RUSSIA AND HOLLAND.
COUNT BENKENDORF IS AT THE OPPOSITE BANK.
IN FRANCE HE WAS CALLED "THE EUROPEAN MILITARY POLICE".
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED.

I'm currently at your hometown in the French region of Alsace
Baron Georges-Charles d'Anthes
I SUPPOSE HE LIVES UP TO THAT TITLE
I will be sure to fulfill his expectations.
He sincerely supported the idea and told me to take care of you.
The conversation with your father was a success
Perhaps your youth makes this difficult for you. "Van Leeckeren" is a surname of which no one would be ashamed.
I beg you to behave discreetly
your promotion to First Lieutenant will be easily acquired.
If this final task with which the Tsar has entrusted me turns out well,
Within half a year, I will be able to call you my son.

KURSA-NOV THE ANTIQUES DEALER IS HERE
MR D'ANTHES..
Do you have any com-plaint against Victoria?
Count Nesselrode informed me of such in a letter
You didn't attend the evening party that was held to celebrate Victoria's naming day


HERE IT IS!

I MET MR. HEECKEREN IN ROME.
I'M HERE TO DELIVER THE GOODS THAT HE PURCHA-SED AT THE TIME.
I SEE.
IT'S ...CITY THAT MR. HEECKEREN IS NOT PRESENT..
IN SUCH CASE, YOU MIGHT CHECK THE ITEM TO ENSURE THAT IT SUFFERED NO DAMAGES DURING THE DELIVERY.

ITS FACE RESEMBLES MY OWN
THIS STATUE IS IN SUCH BAD TASTE
IT WAS CREATED IN IMITATION OF A FAMOUS SCULPTURE FROM ANCIENT TIMES
LAOCOÖN
HE WAS A TROJAN PRIEST THAT WAS CURSED TO DIE BY BEING STRANGLED BY AN ENORMOUS SNAKE.
SNAP
MR D'ANTHES?

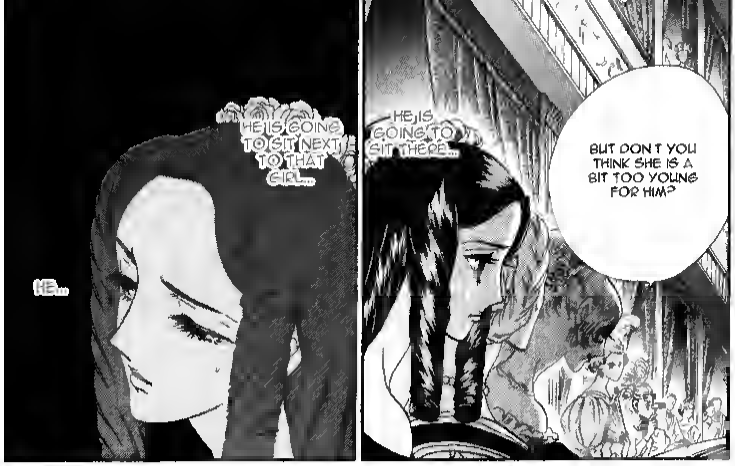
WHAT AN UNPLEASANT SENSATION
AM I BECOMING ACCUSTOMED TO THIS?
IS THIS WHAT I TRULY WANT?
BARON D'ANTHES
A GUEST IS CALLING FOR YOU.
IN SUCH A PLACE?
THE GUEST RAN STRAIGHT TO THIS PRIVATE ROOM!
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING
ofo

MRS LUZHKOV...
WHY...
I WANT YOU TO...
KILL MY HUSBAND.
ASK HIM FOR A DUEL!
DON'T WORRY! WITH YOUR SKILL, YOU'RE SURE TO WIN
I BEG YOU!
HE BECOMES MORE AND MORE VIOLENT EACH DAY
DIVORCE IS PROHIBITED IN THIS COUNTRY
HELP ME BE RID OF HIM!

DURING THIS YEAR THAT WE HAVE BEEN APART
I HAVE SUFFERED SO MUCH
I KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY ONLY LOVE
A YEAR AGO, I WAS BROUGHT TO TEARS WHENEVER I THOUGHT OF THIS BEAUTIFUL WOMAN'S SUFFERING...
MRS LUZHKOV...
I.. HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR HUSBAND

...!
I ONLY FEEL PITY
NOW...

I'M TIRED OF MOZART'S OPERA...
PAPA!
WASN'T MR D'ANTHES SUPPOSSED TO COME HERE TONIGHT?
DON'T WORRY, VICTORIA HE'LL COME
HE TOLD ME THAT HIS MILITARY DUTIES MIGHT CAUSE HIM TO BE LATE BUT THAT HE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ATTEND
THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT BARON D'ANTHES
IS HE GOING TO COME? HE'LL BE IN THE BOX NEXT TO US!
THERE ARE RUMORS ABOUT AN ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN BARON D'ANTHES AND THE DAUGHTER OF NESSELROD, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THEY WERE TRUE
MRS VYAZEMSKY
Y-YES..


HE...
HE IS GOING TO SIT NEXT TO THAT GIRL...
HE IS GOING TO SIT THERE...
BUT DON'T YOU THINK SHE IS A BIT TOO YOUNG FOR HIM?

PLEASE GO BACK TO YOUR SEAT TO ENJOY THE PERFORMANCE
I WILL TAKE CARE OF NATALIA
I'M SORRY...
I ACCEPTED YOUR INVITATION AND NOW...
NATALIA NIKOLAEVNA..
YOU...

OH,
IS SOMETHING WRONG, NATALIA NIKOLAEVNA?
NATALIA, ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?

ARE YOU PERHAPS WITH CHILD AGAIN?
PER-HAPS
LAST YEAR, I FELT THE SAME
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME, NATALIA?
I'M SORRY
PERHAPS I SHOULD RETURN HOME TONIGHT
VERY WELL.
PREPARE A COACH
Yes madam.

I PREPARED THE COACH FOR MRS PUSHKIN
I WASN'T ABLE TO FIND THE CLOAK IN THE CLOAK-ROOM
WAS IT RED?
IT'S BLUE-GREEN
WON'T YOU ENTER THE COACH?
YES
!
BARON D'ANTHES!
GOOD EVENING.
I'VE MISSED THE FIRST ACT.
MINISTER NESSEL-RODE AND HIS DAUGHTER ARE AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL.
I'LL BE ON MY WAY, THEN.

ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
MRS PUSHKIN, IS THERE SOMETHING AMISS?
OP
I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU TO THE COACH.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE BOTHER.
THANK YOU, BARON D'ANTHES.
YOU SHOULD MAKE HASTE
IT'S OF NO CONSEQUENCE
IT'S TOO LATE FOR HASTE BY NOW
NATALIA
WAIT FOR ME
I'M GOING TO THE CLOAKROOM TO SEARCH FOR YOUR CLOAK

SHALL WE GO?
THIS IS UNNE-CES-SARY
THANK YOU FOR ESCOR-TING HER, BARON.
YOUR HEALTH IS VERY IMPOR-TANT-
MIND IT WELL, NATALIA NIKOLAE-VNA
I'LL WRITE TO YOU LATER
"YOUR HEALTH IS VERY IMPOR-TANT"-
MRS PUSHKIN?
I'M PER-FECTLY FINE THERE'S NO NEED TO..
WOR-
DIZZY

ARE YOU WITH CHILD?

IS IT TRUE?
HE WAS THE ONE PERSON I DON'T WANT TO HAVE KNOW
"AGAIN", YOU SAY
A— AGAIN?
A YEAR AGO I COULD EASILY E-VADE THESE SORTS OF THINGS
WHY?
I SEE

THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED A QUESTION LIKE THAT
I'M SORRY
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT SHOULD CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT
WHY, THEN, DO I FEEL THIS WAY?
YOU'RE WITH CHILD OFTEN AREN'T YOU?
GIVE ME YOUR HAND
THERE IS NO NEED
NOTHING WILL COME OF THIS ANGER
I'M AN INDECENT MAN,
SO I CAN'T KEEP MYSELF FROM SPEAKING OF IT
I'VE IMAGINED IT
DIDN'T YOU GIVE BIRTH IN JUNE?
I HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO ANSWER THAT!
EVERY YEAR, HE HAS MADE YOU PREGNANT TEN OUT OF EVERY TWELVE MONTHS WHAT SORT OF MAN IS HE?
HE WANTS YOU TO BE HIS POSSESSION, AND ONLY HIS

YOU WERE THE ONE PERSON I DIDN'T WANT TO LEARN ABOUT THIS
HOW PRE-SUMPTUOUS YOU ARE!
ARE YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND ON SUCH GOOD TERMS?
Slap
!
!
I WAS THE ONE PERSON ?
WHY?

I
I KNEW IT ALL ALONG...
BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO RECOGNIZE IT.
I LOVE HIM.
I DO!
WHY?
NOTHING WILL COME OF IT—
BECAUSE I HATE YOU—
BUT EVEN SO

YOU'RE LYING
I WANT TO BREAK OFF RELA-TIONS... WITH YOU
TAP
YOUR WORDS EXPRESS THE VERY OPPOSITE OF WHAT IS IN YOUR HEART
BUT MY WORDS DO NOT
STOP!

DON'T LOOK INTO MY HEART ANY MORE THAN YOU ALREADY HAVE!

I...
LOVE YOU.

I LIKE YOU
VERY MUCH,
NATALIA NIKOLAE-VNA
FAR AWAY
I CAN HEAR THE MUSIC ON THE STAGE

MY WORLD IS
TURNING
BECOMING
DISTORTED
BREAKING
TO PIECES

NATALIA?
EKATERINA!

Bronze no Tenshi
Volume 4 Chapter 16

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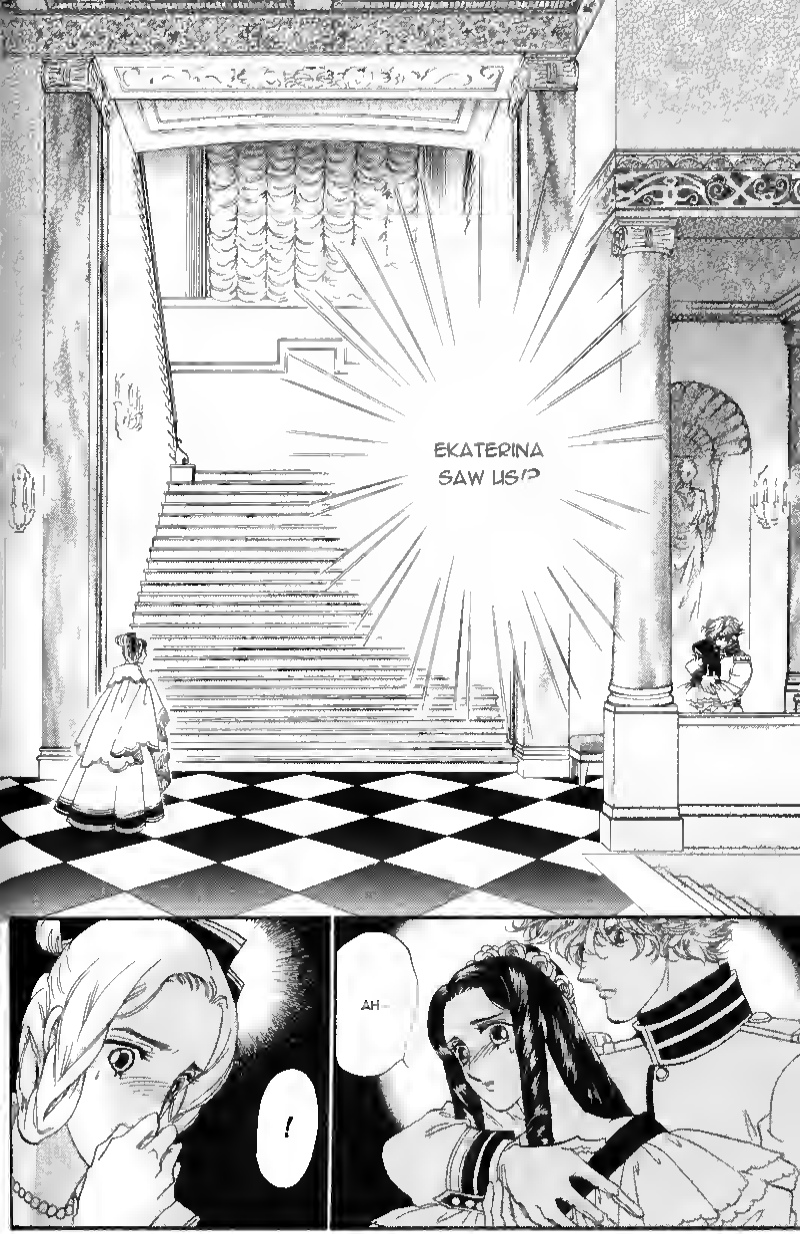
Vol. 16 Natalie


EKATERINA SAW US!?
!
AH-

FIRST
YOU'LL CAUSE YOUR SISTER TO SUSPECT US
HUSH
LET... LET ME GO
Hold
SLAP ME WITH ALL OF YOUR STRENGTH,
AND CRY, "HOW TERRIBLY RUDE!"
AS YOU DID BEFORE,
MRS PUSHKIN
HOW... HOW TERRIBLY RUDE!
SLAP

IT WAS A REALISTIC PERFORMANCE
A BIT TOO REALISTIC
That hurt
I DON'T WISH TO SEE HIM EVER AGAIN
LET'S HURRY OFF, EKATERINA
Baron Dantès?
NATALIA... HAVE YOU...

JUMP

PERHAPS WE SHOULD TRY AGAIN

BUT MISS EKATERINA IS NOT SO NAIVE

MERCI.
Not at all.
DO YOU HAVE ANY VODKA?
Y-YES, FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THE COLD.
GULP
!
Thud
MISS EKA-TERINA!
EEK!
ARE YOU WELL, NA-TALIA?
YES

WHA. WHAT WAS THAT?
!
I MUST WISH MRS. PUSHKIN FAREWELL, AS WELL.
I HAVE YET TO WISH YOU FAREWELL.
WAI
I WILL WRITE TO YOU TOMO-RROW MORNING
HE IS ALWAYS CRUDE
I NEVER IMAGINED THAT HE WAS SUCH A CRUDE MAN!
HE MUST HAVE BEEN DRUNK
HE REE-KED OF ALCO-HOL.
Clatter
Clatter
Clatter

BARON D'ANTHES
WHAT WILL HAPPEN FROM NOW ON?
IT'S NO GOOD
AT ALL!!
I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS NIGHT, NOT EVEN FOR A MOMENT
THE BEGINNING OF A SPLENDID NIGHT!

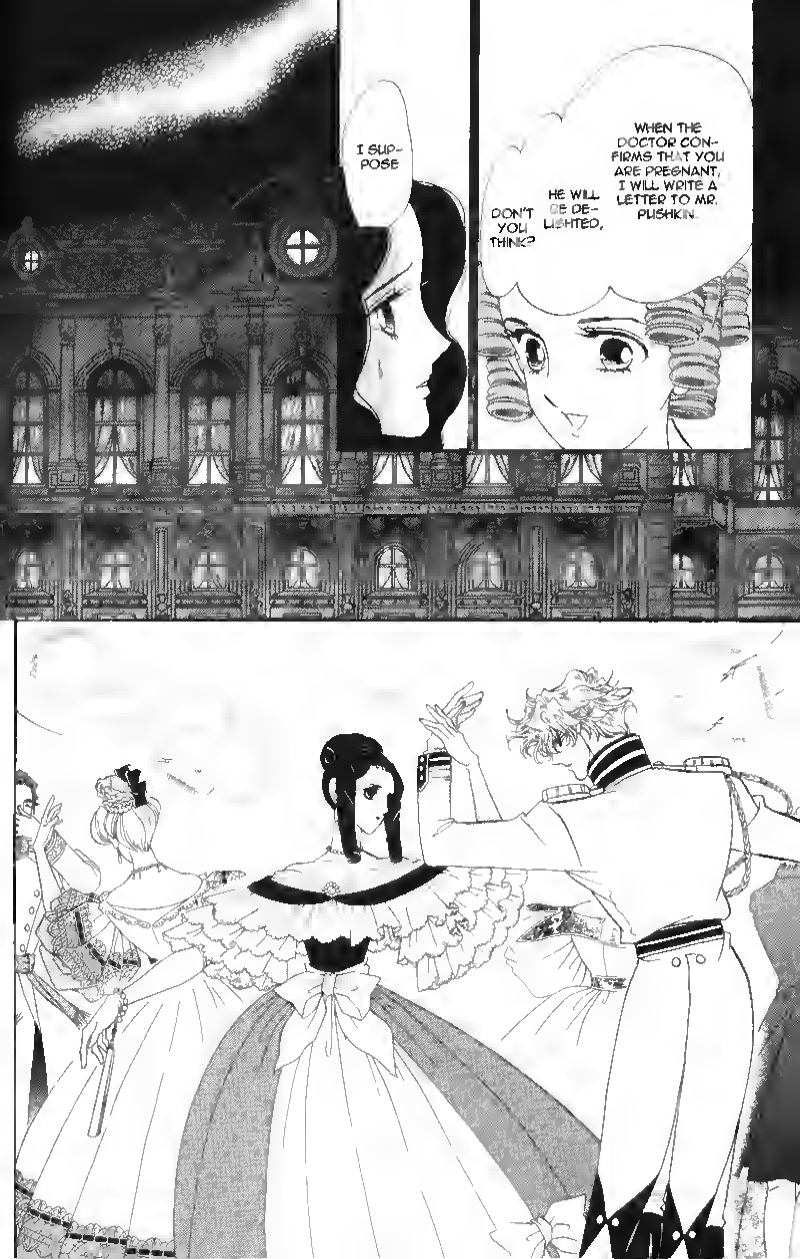
With the sole purpose of meeting you.

Yours servant, Georges D'Anthes

Should I not receive an invitation, I will slip into the ballroom in any way that I may.

I await your attendance to the ball at the Khitrovo mansion tonight

SASHA
WHAT SHOULD I DO IN A MOMENT LIKE THIS?
I WASN'T ABLE TO SLEEP ALL NIGHT LONG.
HE TRULY SENT A LETTER.
NATALIA, ARE YOU STILL SLEEPING?
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY.
OF COURSE.
TO THE BALL AT THE KHITROVO MANSION, WILL YOU?
SO YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO...
MOMMY!
HE'S HUNGRY
YOU HAVE TO NURSE GRIGORY
NATALIA, HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
Hide


I SUP-
POSE
WHEN THE DOCTOR CON-FIRMS THAT YOU ARE PREGNANT, I WILL WRITE A LETTER TO MR. PUSHKIN.
HE WILL BE DE-LIGHTED,
DON'T YOU THINK?

THEY STAND OUT QUITE A BIT, DON'T YOU THINK?
BUT THEY HAVE ALREADY DANCED THREE SONGS
THAT'S TRUE
AT ANY RATE I WONDER WHEN THOSE TWO CAME TO BE ON SUCH CORDIAL TERMS
IN THE EVENING, SHE SUDDENLY RECOVERED
MR D'ANTHES HAS DANCED A PIECE WITH ME, AS WELL.
I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU FOR MRS PUSHKIN'S HEALTH PROBLEM LAST NIGHT, BUT
I APOLOGIZE FOR HAVING TROUBLED YOU,
MRS KHITROVO
PLEASE WAIT
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT THAT I MUST TELL YOU
NO MORE DANCES
GO DANCE
YOU'RE YOUNG
MAY I HAVE THE NEXT DANCE WITH YOU?
...
IT'S TOO LATE TO TELL ME THAT HE ONLY WISHED TO EMBRACE ME, THAT THERE WASN'T AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE...
...
A MESSAGE FOR YOU FROM THE TSAR

IT'S VERY SIMPLE
FOLLOW MY EXAMPLE
HOW SHOULD I BEHAVE IN FRONT OF THE TSAR FROM NOW ON? I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA
IN OTHER WORDS
HE DOES NOT HOLD ANY OVERWHELMING DESIRE FOR HIS WOMEN
I COULD KISS MISS EKATERINA WITH THIS IN MIND
THAT IS A TOLERABLE AMOUNT
A SMALL KISS MIGHT BE PERMITTED
IF I PERMIT THE TSAR SOMETHING OF THAT KIND PUSHKIN WILL BE ANGERED
I

YOU HAVE THE TENDENCY TO BECOME FLUSTERED,
AND THAT ONLY WORSENS MATTERS
THE OTHER PARTY IS RATHER CONSCIOUS OF IT
ALL YOU MUST DO IS GREET THE TSAR CALMLY AND POLITELY, WITHOUT GROWING RED
IT'S FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS WIFE
I SEE

SUPPLE
I LOVE YOU, NATALI△ NIKO-LAEVNA△
YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN ME △N ANSWER TO MY CONFES-SION YET△

I WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST!
I HAD A SLEEPLESS NIGHT
I WAS GOING OVER ALL THE TIMES I HAVE SPENT WITH YOU IN MY MIND...
BEGINNING WITH THAT FIRST MEETING, TWO YEARS AGO
I CANNOT YET...
GIVE YOU AN ANSWER
I'M SURE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND
TONIGHT I CAME TO TELL YOU..
MY CIRCUMSTANCES
NATALIA NIKOLAEVNA
MY FEELINGS ARE THE LEAST IMPORTANT THING
MY SISTER EKATERINA HAS TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU
I AM CURRENTLY PREGNANT WITH MY FOURTH CHILD
MY HUSBAND IS TROUBLED BY HIS WORK

EVERY TIME I OPEN MY MOUTH, HE IMMEDIATELY CONFUTES WHAT I SAY

THE MORE I WORSEN MATTERS

THE MORE I SEE HIM,

AND SASHA IS NOT HERE

I MUST TAKE THESE MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS

YOUR MAJES-TY!
YOUR MAJESTY, THE TSAR!
MRS PUSHKIN
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU FEEL BETTER NOW
BECOME CALM

I'M SORRY TO HAVE TROUBLED YOU, YOUR MAJES-TY
GREET HIM POLI-TELY
Smile

OH?
I HADN'T NOTICED
IT S NOT THAT BAD
MRS PUSHKIN HAS CHANGED

Vyazemsky Mansion
I HAVE RECEIVED A LOT OF GRUMBLING LETTERS FROM PUSHKIN.
IT SEEMS THAT HE HAS BEEN WORRYING ENDLESSLY ABOUT HIS "MUSE" NOT VISITING HIM IN THE COUNTRYSIDE
I THINK HE SHOULD FORGET ABOUT LITERATURE AND RETURN AT ONCE
IF HE IS THERE AGAINST HIS WILL AND WISHES TO RETURN,

Flap
Flap
ESPECIALLY IF YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THEM.
Hey
PLEASE, TELL ME THAT YOU LOVE ME
I HAVE TOLD YOU MANY TIMES OVER
I CAN'T SAY THAT
I'LL ASK YOU AS MANY TIMES AS I MUST
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO PUT YOUR FEELINGS TOWARDS ME INTO WORDS
THEN I WILL NO LONGER DANCE WITH YOU
I'LL ASK YOU FOR A DANCE AS MANY TIMES AS I MUST.

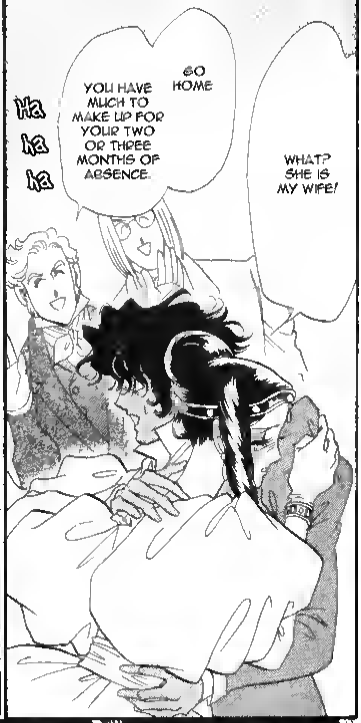
TO STOP SOMETHING YOU ENJOY
IS PAINFUL.
YOU HESITATE TO PUT IT INTO WORDS
DESPITE WHAT I HEAR YOUR WHOLE BODY TELLING ME WHEN WE DANCE,
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR MEANING.
YOU HAVE GIVEN ME NO PROOF OF YOUR HAPPINESS
IT IRRITATES ME, AND I'M HAVING A RATHER DIFFICULT TIME OF IT
THERE ARE RUMOURS THAT DESPITE HER MOTHER-IN-LAW'S FALLING ILL, MRS PUSHKIN NEVER PAID HER A VISIT.
OH,
WHAT IS IT?
DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT PUSHKIN'S MOTHER?
I HEARD THAT, AS WELL.
ISN'T SHE DANCING TOO MUCH WITH THAT FRENCHMAN?
MRS PUSHKIN DOESN'T LOOK VERY HAPPY.

AND YET SHE DANCES EVERY NIGHT AWAY
MAKING THE GENTLEMEN SIGH...
EXCUSE ME, MY LADIES
ON THE SUBJECT OF MY MOTHER
YOU ARE WRONG TO BLAME MY WIFE
!
IT'S MY OWN FAULT
FOR NEVER MAKING UP WITH MY MOTHER
PUSHKIN!
Ave
ARE YOU BACK?
WHEN DID YOU COME?
RIGHT NOW
YOUR CLOTHES ARE ALL DIRTY
THEY STINK!
SASHA
SO I CAME IN A RUSH WITH THE CLOTHES I WAS WEARING
WHEN I RETURNED HOME, I HEARD THAT NATALIA HAD COME HERE,

NATA-
LIA!
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT SEVERAL THINGS SO I CAME AHEAD OF TIME
SWAP
SWAP
HOW ARE YOU?
IT SEEMS THAT YOU HAVE LOST SOME WEIGHT.
NATALIA?
HOW IS OUR BABY?

I WILL COME BACK TOMORROW TO TALK AT EASE

WHERE CAN WE SEE EACH OTHER TOMORROW?
Wipe
...


GO HOME
YOU HAVE MUCH TO MAKE UP FOR YOUR TWO OR THREE MONTHS OF ABSENCE.
Ha ha ha
WHAT? SHE IS MY WIFE!

I WON'T GO ANYWHERE...
OTHER THAN THE CHURCH

DADDY, YOUR BEARD TICKLES ME!
MY CHILDREN, YOU HAVE GROWN HEAVIER!
Hey
THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO.
I WAS THINKING THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO SPEND THE CHRISTMAS TOGETHER...
WHY ARE YOU CRYING, ALEXANDRA?
EKATERINA
DID SHE NOTICE?
YOU TOO, NATALIA
YES
NOW EVERYBODY WILL BE ABLE TO SETTLE DOWN
ANYWAY, I'M GLAD

FIRST I WILL PROPERLY DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM WITH MY MOTHER
I'LL GO AS AN EXPRESSION OF CONCERN AND I WILL CONSULT MY FATHER IF SHE IS RECEIVING A PROPER MEDICAL TREATMENT
THEN I'LL ASK THE TSAR TO LET THE LITERATURE JOURNAL TO BE PUBLISHED AGAIN
TOMOPPOW I'LL GO TO VYAZEMSKY'S TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS
I'LL FIRE THAT SLOTH OF A CHIEF
COUNTING THE COSTS FOR THE DOCTOR, THE BIRTH, THE WET NURSE...
...NO ALSO THE PUBLICATION COSTS...
I WILL BE INDEBTED ONCE AGAIN...
YOU CAN SELL...
MY PEARL NECKLACE
STOP
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A CHILD
THERE IS NO NEED FOR THAT
YOU HAVE TO STAY PRETTY, AFTER ALL.
NATALIA.
YES

YOU HAVE A FIRMER CHARACTER NOW
I LOVED YOUR CHILDISH SIDE, BUT..
YOU HAVE CHANGED, HAVEN'T YOU?
!
IT'S FINE
Zzz
I'M NO LONGER WHO I USED TO BE.
DID I CHANGE?

COME THIS WAY
YES
SO YOU TWO WANT TO GO TO CONFES- SION
OH!
NATALIA, THAT S
WHY IS HE HERE?
BARON D'ANTHES!

...
THEN CONFESS YOUR SIN TO GOD
YES.
...
...
...
YOU ARE ABSOLVED OF YOUR SINS
SIN NO LONGER
NOW IT'S MISS ALEXANDRA'S TURN
COME HERE
...
WHEN I'M IN FRONT OF MY BROTHER-IN-LAW, I CAN'T RESTRAIN MY FEELINGS

WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT ATTEND THIS CHURCH. AS IT IS THE CLOSEST TO YOUR HOUSE.
YOU, AS A FRENCHMAN AND A CATHOLIC BELIEVER, LOOK SUSPICIOUS IN AN ORTHODOX TEMPLE
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME
YOU CAME HERE—
TO TALK TO A PRIEST ABOUT ME
IF YOU HAVE MONEY,
YOU CAN MANAGE EVERY SITUATION, WHEREVER YOU ARE
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?

SHUSH
THAT YOU LOVE...
YOU SAID...
DID YOU HEAR IT?
MY CON-FES-SION?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW CRUEL YOU ARE!
THIS IS A SACRED PLACE...
STOP IT, THIS IS NOT THE PLACE TO...
I WANT TO HEAR IT ONCE AGAIN.
FOR YOU, I DON'T CARE IF I GO STRAIGHT TO HELL.

YOU REALLY WILL FALL INTO THE PITS OF HELL
TELL ME THAT YOU LOVE ME
YES
YES, I CONFESSED TO THE PRIEST
THAT I LOVE YOU
Ju
!
YOU LIED TO ME?

YOU LIED, DIDN'T YOU?
BUT YOU...
YES.
ALTHOUGH I EAVESDROPPED ON YOUR CONFESSION IN RUSSIAN TO THE PRIEST, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT.
DESPITE HAVING BEEN IN RUSSIA FOR TWO YEARS, THERE ARE THINGS I DON'T YET UNDERSTAND.
YOU ARE VERY CLEVER,
AND I HAVE BEEN TRICKED SO EASILY.
I TRULY AM WITLESS
I FIND..
YOUR HONESTY LOVELY.
IT'S YOUR CHARM.

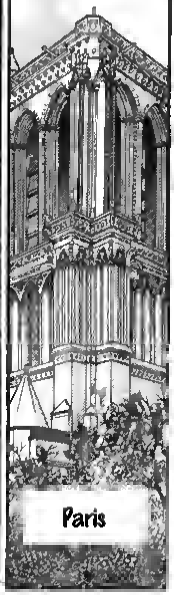
I IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTAND WHAT IS ON YOUR MIND
BUT THAT'S BECAUSE I AM ALWAYS WATCHING YOU
YOU
CAN'T DECEIVE THE HEART OF SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU
YOU CAN EVEN TELL WHAT I'M WISHING FOR NOW?

THAT IS WHAT I HAVE JUST SWORN, AND YET..
SIN NO LONGER.

NATALIE...

A NEW NAME
FOR ME...

France



Paris

WHERE DID THE OLD NATALIA GO ?

Dear Baron Hecheren, my friend and my soon-to-be father,
You are now in my beloved Paris, aren't you?
Excuse me for not replying your last letter.
It wasn't because I neglected it
It may be difficult to believe, but it's just the opposite.
DON'T LIE. D ANTHES
Thus morning I handled my military duties easily. I ended up sleeping this afternoon. Lately, I always come back home in the mornings after having spent all night dancing.
AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, YOU'RE HAVING LOTS OF FUN
Ok.ok.ok
Because I have fallen in a feverish, inescapable love.
Well, It's a daily torture.
It doesn't matter if it's day or night
It has left me unable to find rest for either my body or my mind
"LOVE"
I can only tell her how much I love her when we are dancing.
We can't be alone together
because she is married.

I love her passionately
I feel capable of opposing even the Tsar.
MRS PUSHKIN!?
She was standing alone near the door.
Her husband took her along and she was going to return home.
I can only show my love for her through dancing, and that hurts me to such an extent that I feel as if I am going to die.
My true self is full of jealousy when I face the husband who has her all for himself
Under the mask of enjoyment...
That night, as well—

DID YOUR HUSBAND LEAVE YOU ALONE WHILE HE STANDS AROUND TALKING?
THE TSAR HAS GIVEN HIS PERMISSION
HE IS IN HIGH SPIRITS BECAUSE THE LITERATURE JOURNAL IS GOING TO BE PUBLISHED AT LAST
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH HE FOUND A COLUMNIST
YOU WILL GROW COLD HERE
BUT OUR COACH IS COMING SOON IF I GO INSIDE, I WON'T SEE IT
YOU SHOULD WAIT FOR HIM INSIDE
THEN COME HERE TO AVOID THE WIND

I WANT TO KISS YOU
YOU CAN'T, NOT HERE
NOBODY WILL SEE US HERE IN THIS DARK
MOST CERTAINLY NOT, WHAT IF SOMEONE WERE TO COME?
SIGH
BARON?
I TRULY WISH TO BE ALONE WITH YOU

I HAVE USED EVERY POSSIBLE EXCUSE...
TO SEE YOU EVERYDAY FOR A LITTLE WHILE, TO SPEND SOME LITTLE TIME WITH YOU.
AT THE BEGINNING, I WAS LOOKING FOR A CHANCE TO TOUCH YOU...
TO WHISPER TO YOU, TO KISS YOU SOFTLY...
I DIDN'T NEED MUCH TO BE HAPPY.
BUT MY DESIRE IS STEADILY GROWING STRONGER.
IT HAS BECOME SO PAINFUL TO ENDURE.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?
...
I
I WANT EVERYTHING OF YOU.
I WANT TO BE YOUR LOVER.
GET IN MY COACH AND WE WILL GO TO SOMEPLACE WHERE WE CAN BE ALONE TOGETHER

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TONIGHT, I WANT YOU TO MAKE EXCUSES TO MEET ME
!
AT ANY RATE?
THAT IS—
I'M THAT SORT OF MAN
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU BECAUSE I LOVE YOU
I DON'T CARE IF YOU SPURN ME
...
I SEE

NOW...
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY...
I WANT TO GO SLOWLY WITH YOU
IT MAY HAVE SOUNDED AS IF I WERE THREATENING YOU.
...
I HAVE NEVER LOVED ANYONE AS I LOVE YOU NOW
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THIS FEELING
I...

BECAUSE EVERYTHING EXCEPT MY HEART
IS NOT MINE
I AM THE SORT OF WOMAN WHO CAN ONLY BE HAPPY WHEN TAKING GOOD CARE OF MY DUTIES. I WAS BROUGHT UP THAT WAY
NATALIE?

PUSHKIN IS LIKE A FATHER WHO PROTECTS ME

GOD IS THE GUIDE WHO PROTECTS MY SOUL.

BUT YOU HAVE BECOME AN EXISTENCE SUPERIOR THAN GOD TO ME

YOU MEAN EVERYTHING TO ME NOW

BUT

I CAN ONLY GIVE YOU...
MY HEART!
DON'T DISDAIN ME
PLEASE, TAKE PITY ON ME!
AT LEAST MY HEART
MY HEART IS ONLY...
YOURS.
THE REST DOESN'T BELONG TO ME...
NATA-LIA...

YES
LET'S GO HOME. THE COACH IS HERE.

There is neither despair nor sorrow...

but a love that fills me with a great happiness.

It is the first time that such a thing has happened to me.

It is the first time that I have experienced a love for a woman that makes me feel as though I were touching heaven...

I hope to hear from you soon.
My dear Baron.
Please, try to understand and tolerate my new love.
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS!?
WHAT ABOUT VICTORIA, THEN? AND THE PROMOTION?
WHERE DID YOUR AMBITION GO?
Your son, Georges D'Anthes
I love you with all my heart
I SUPPOSED I MUST ADOPT HIM
WITH ONLY THIS SINGLE WORD CALLED "LOVE", I

FLOWER COMICS

flowers フラワーコミックス

ブロンズの天使

4

さいとうちほ

Chiho Saito Presents

FLOWER COMICS

ブロンズの天使

4

さいとうちほ

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ISBN4-09-130234-3

C9979 ¥390E

9784091302342

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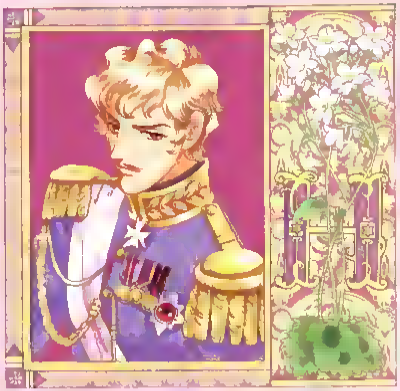
1929979003906

雑誌 46012-34 小学館



プーシキンとともに
宮廷舞踏会に出席した
ナターリアは、ダンテスと
組んで踊ることになった。
はじめはダンテスに対し
警戒心を抱いていた彼女だが、
しだいに心を通い
あわせるようになる。
それは、
天才詩人の妻ナターリアと
孤独な異邦人ダンテスの
許されぬ愛のはじまり!!

flowers

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